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Japan

Tokyo Comments on Clinton Foreign Policy Team

OW2412040792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0350 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Top government spokesman Yohei Kono said Thursday that Japan has a favorable impression of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton's just-named defense and foreign policy team.

"We think (Clinton) has assembled very capable people, and we have friendly feelings toward" the appointees, Kono told a news conference.

He said it is not the appropriate time to comment on how Clinton's selections for the secretary of state and defense posts will affect bilateral relations or the United States' ties with Asia.

Japanese officials are particularly wary about Washington's trade policies in view of Japan's ballooning trade surplus and a White House line-up that includes economic policymakers known to advocate a more interventionist approach to international trade.

A senior government source described Clinton's appointees to key defense posts as "moderates who are advocates of arms reduction."

They appear to favor the moderate positions that characterized the 1977-81 administration of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

On Tuesday Clinton named Warren Christopher as secretary of state. Christopher was the No. 2 person at the State Department under Carter's administration.

The top post at the Department of Defense went to Les Aspin, a 22-year member of Congress, while Anthony Lake, Carter's director of policy planning at the State Department, was appointed by Clinton as National Security Adviser.

'Tough Time' Expected With Clinton on Trade

OW2512095292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0931 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa gave his first hint Friday that he expects a tough time with the incoming administration of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton over Japan's persistent trade surplus.

"They will probably say all sorts of things. Whenever there is a new administration they always blow a lot of hot air, but after several months it quiets down," Miyazawa said in a taped New Year's interview to be aired in his local constituency of Hiroshima.

Japan's 43 billion dollar trade surplus with the U.S. is "a very difficult problem" that neither side seems to know how to overcome, Miyazawa said.

While the overall U.S. trade deficit is expected to shrink in 1992, America's trade imbalance with Japan has not improved.

Offering his first forecast on what the Clinton administration has in store for Asia, Miyazawa said Clinton may be a bit tougher on China's human rights performance than his predecessor George Bush, but overall U.S. diplomacy is likely to see few changes.

He praised Clinton as a man who "is quick to understand," an impression he said he gained several years ago when Clinton, then governor of Arkansas, visited Japan to drum up trade and investment.

The premier said the role of Japan and other major industrialized nations in propping up Russia's collapsing economy will be a major issue facing the Group of Seven (G-7) nations in the half-year leading up to their annual economic summit slated for Tokyo next July.

"The future of Russia poses an element of instability," to the international community, Miyazawa said.

Moscow's talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on economic restructuring are unlikely to make progress, "but we can't just abandon the situation," he said.

Successful IMF discussions would enable the release of 3 billion dollar worth of credit in 1993.

In a series of six interviews with local media organizations Miyazawa made no mention of a longstanding territorial dispute over four islands off Hokkaido that Japan has said is preventing it from offering large-scale aid.

Miyazawa also expressed concern over the future of China, and said that Beijing's continuation of reforms and an open economy are the key to regional peace.

He predicted 1993 would bring more demands to the United Nations for assistance in responding to conflicts and rescue situations like that in Somalia.

He said Japan's assistance in such cases would be mostly financial, adding he hopes to meet international expectations for this in a timely fashion.

On the domestic economy, Miyazawa said that the government would consider additional stimulus measures if those included in the government's 72.4 trillion yen draft budget for fiscal 1993 fail to have the desired effect.

Japan's fiscal year begins in April.

Proposed Ministerial Talks With U.S. Welcomed

OW2512034492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0323 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister [MITI] Yoshiro Mori welcomed Friday a proposal for setting up an economic ministerial forum for policy dialogue between Japan and the United States.

Mori said during a press conference that the forum should encourage better Japan-U.S. relations.

A private panel advising the foreign minister proposed Tuesday that the forum should replace the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks and broaden coverage to include macroeconomic, monetary policies, and farm issues, among others.

When asked about President-elect Bill Clinton's appointment of Los Angeles lawyer Mickey Kantor as U.S. trade representative, Mori said he hopes to have frank discussions with Kantor.

Foreign Ministry on Miyazawa, Clinton Differences

OW2812125292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1236 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The profound differences between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton in experience, career and character are prompting some Foreign Ministry officials to worry about future Japan-U.S. relations.

Miyazawa, 73, plans to visit the United States in March for talks with Clinton, 46, who is to be inaugurated on January 20.

"I am concerned whether the two leaders would be able to build friendly relations at their meeting (in March)," a senior Foreign Ministry official told KYODO News Service.

Miyazawa got acquainted with then Arkansas Governor Clinton in October 1985, the officials said. Miyazawa was then visiting the U.S. as the chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Executive Council.

They said Miyazawa described the young governor as a "quick- witted man."

Miyazawa and Clinton have four main points in common—golf, a dislike of smoking, and critical views on the Vietnam war, and their political technique of seeking to avoid antagonizing interest groups and political foes, political observers said.

Critics have branded Clinton as "Slick Willy," for his tendency to avoid confronting with foes and interest groups and for seeking to build consensus through backstage political maneuverings, a common practice among Japanese politicians.

The reports of his actions and statements here have led to the birth of the new Japanese expression "acting like Clinton (Clinton- suru)," a reference to fence-straddling on issues without voicing an honest opinion.

Miyazawa is also under similar criticism for allegedly avoiding exercise of leadership in both the current political money-and-mob scandal and from foreign demands for opening Japan's rice market.

Miyazawa telephoned Clinton three days after Clinton's election victory, congratulating him and expressing his wish to hold talks with him soon.

Clinton was quoted as telling Miyazawa that he also wanted to meet soon.

A Foreign Ministry source said Miyazawa's overture to Clinton gave him an impression "as if a father were trying to curry favors with his son who got promoted in professional career."

Miyazawa told reporters on November 4—one day after Clinton's selection—the shift in the U.S. leadership from Republican to a Democrat president "would not spark a profound change" in Japan-U.S. relations.

Both Miyazawa and Clinton expressed critical views on the Vietnam war, though Miyazawa's comments appeared to be an indirect criticism, they said.

During the presidential campaign, Clinton drew harsh condemnation from President George Bush for organizing an antiwar demonstration in Britain in the late 1960s when he was studying at Oxford University. Bush also denounced him for dodging military service.

Miyazawa, then foreign minister, said in April, 1975 that political advances by North Vietnamese Communists "reflect a historic trend toward self-determination" by various ethnic groups.

Local Parts Content

OW2312082792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0753 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] New York, Dec. 23 KYODO—Mitsubishi Motors Corp. agreed with Chrysler Corp. to import car components manufacturerd at Chrysler's Mexican plant to boost the local parts content in cars produced at its U.S. subsidiary, informed sources said Wednesday. Under the agreement, about 75 percent of car engines used at Diamond Star Motors Corp., based in Illinois, will be supplied by the Mexican plant. The subsidiary now imports all engines from Japan.

The move was prompted by the need to increase the content of locally produced components in line with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), aimed at creating a free trade zone encompassing the United States, Canada, and Mexico. But the sources said U.S. car industry workers oppose the imports from Mexico.

Diamond Star Motors, originally a joint venture between Mitsubishi and Chrysler, became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Japanese maker last year, with the financially troubled U.S. partner relinquishing its 50 percent stake. But even after that, the two companies have continued to cooperate both in manufacturing and marketing through the unit, which produces 240,000 cars annually.

Government Discovers Documents on 'Comfort Women'

OW2312074292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 23 KYODO—The government has discovered about 20 historical documents on Asian women who served as prostitutes for Japanese troops during World War II but failed to confirm whether the women were taken to brothels against their will, government sources said Wednesday.

The government gathered the documents, mostly from the Defense Agency, in its probe into the "comfort women" issue, the sources said. The documents were found after July's report in which Japan acknowledged that women from at least six countries were sent to frontline wartime brothels. The officials declined to give a clear answer on whether the government accepts as truthful the testimony of some women saying they were forced or duped into becoming prostitutes.

The newly discovered documents reportedly show there was some involvement of the former Japanese Army and the government in recuiting women, and in the management and sanitary conditions of wartime brothels. The government, however, has yet to find materials confirming the women were forced to serve as prostitutes, the sources said. The government is scheduled to announce the results of its survey of the documents in early February, they said.

About 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly from the Korean peninsula, which was under Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945, were said to have been forced to work at military brothels during the war.

Support for Miyazawa Said Down to 20 Percent

OW2312022492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0157 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 23 KYODO—Public support for the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa plummeted to 20 percent, down 13 percentage points from a survey in September, according to the latest ASAHI SHIMBUN poll released Wednesday.

The disapproval rating leaped to 63 percent, up 16 points.

The mass-circulation newspaper surveyed 3,000 eligible voters nationwide Sunday and Monday, of whom 2,350 or 78 percent responded.

Of those who voiced disapproval of the Miyazawa cabinet, 25 percent said they do not support Miyazawa because of his political attitudes, while 16 percent said they do not do so because of his failure to push ahead with political reform.

The survey also found 15 percent said they are dissatisfied with Miyazawa's poor management of rising consumer prices and the foundering economy.

Public support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party also declined to 49 percent, down 6 points, slipping below the 50 percent mark in the ASAHI survey for the first time in about three years.

The biggest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, ranked second with a support rate of 19 percent, and the Japan New Party launched by former Kumamoto Governor Morihiro Hosokawa this year rose to third place with a 7 percent support rate.

Chairman of Largest Opposition Party Resigns

OW2412081192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Makoto Tanabe resigned Thursday as chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Japan's largest opposition party, citing the need for a generational change in its leadership.

Tanabe's sudden resignation after 18 months in the job, however, is widely seen as the result of strong criticism within SDP ranks and the public for his close links with fallen ruling party kingpin Shin Kanemaru.

In an emergency meeting of the party's central executive committee members, Tanabe said, "I will resign from the chairmanship. It is important for the party to be guided by a new leader."

Tanabe, 70, said he did not make the decision to take responsibility for his links with Kanemaru, who resigned his Diet seat in October for accepting an illegal political donation from the president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co.

SDP officials said the party intends to elect a new leader before the next regular session of the Diet begins in late January.

General elections for the House of Representatives and the election of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly are expected to be held next year.

The meeting, held Thursday afternoon prior to Tanabe's press conference, approved his resignation.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana also expressed his intention to resign at the meeting.

At a two-day session of the party's central committee in Tokyo on Monday and Tuesday, representatives of SDP regional chapters accused the leadership of lacking a strategy for getting to the bottom of the money-and-mobster Tokyo Sagawa scandal and assailing the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Tanabe defeated Tetsu Ueda in the election for the party chairmanship in July 1991, succeeding Takako Doi. He was reappointed to the post at a party convention in December last year without a vote taken.

EPA Says Delay in Recovery 'Inevitable'

OW2412091692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Japan's stagnant economy will not begin to recover during the second half of fiscal 1992 as expected, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) indicates in a report published Thursday.

The report on the "Japanese Economy in 1992 in Retrospect," fails to indicate when a recovery is likely to start, in contrast to the EPA's fiscal 1992 economic white paper, which predicted in July one will start in the six-month period ending next March 31.

EPA officials said Thursday a delay in recovery is inevitable.

The report says Japan is suffering a serious economic slump due to decreases in capital investments and purchases of consumer durable goods, combined with the poor financial performance of the banking and securities industries following the bursting of the speculative "bubble economy."

It indicates the economic slowdown has resulted from multiple factors, while the economic white paper said the burst of the bubble had only limited effects on the economy.

The report says companies should promote restructuring efforts to help strengthen Japan's economic foundation.

It says the economy is now at its bottom, due to slumps in consumer spending and capital investments.

Housing construction and public works spending, however, have helped bolster the economy, while inventory reductions have been progressing smoothly, the report says.

Business Community Comments on FY93 Budget

OW2612073392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0725 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—The business community generally welcomed Saturday the fiscal 1993 national budget endorsed at a cabinet session earlier in the day as one designed to boost the economy.

Business leaders at the same time expressed concern about a 3.3 percent economic growth target set by the government for the new fiscal year, beginning next April 1.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said the 72.35 trillion yen budget is aimed at improving social infrastructure to improve the quality of life in Japan.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, welcomed an additional appropriation for aid to developing nations, lifting Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) outlay above the 1 trillion yen mark for the first time.

Ishikawa expressed hope the government will take additional stimulus measures whenever deemed necessary to prop up the economy.

Masaru Hayami, head of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), urged the government to make the utmost efforts to get the budget through the Diet before the end of fiscal 1992.

He said the government will implement all necessary measures, including an income tax cut, to stimulate the economy.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), expressed concern over the government's decision to trim the growth rate of defense outlays.

"It is questionable (to curb defense spending) at a time when the military situation in Southeast Asia is changing drastically," he said.

Official Views Public Funds Use for Train Line

OW2212141492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1406 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—The proposed use of public funds for construction of a new bullet train line in central Japan is a problem, the president of East Japan Railway [JR] Co. said Tuesday. JR East Japan President Shoji Sumita told a press conference that it would be better for the railway company to finance the project itself.

The government's fiscal loan and investment program set aside 27.9 billion yen in loans for fiscal 1993 for construction of the new bullet train line between Takasaki, Gunma Prefecture, and Nagano. The program, known as the second budget, is mostly financed by postal savings and postal insurance premiums. East Japan Railway is one of the seven privatized entities of the defunct Japanese National Railways and is to serve the new bullet train route.

Miyazawa Designates Firm for Plutonium Production

OW2412024092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0140 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday formally designated Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. as an operator for a facility to produce plutonium from spent nuclear fuel, government officials said.

Construction of the plant in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, northern Japan, will begin in March next year and it is expected to begin operating in January 2000, the officials said.

The plutonium to be produced will be used in Japan's fast breeder reactor program, according to previously announced government plans.

The company is scheduled to start keeping spent nuclear fuel in storage from April 1996, the spokesman said.

The Rokkasho facility is one of the world's largest nuclear reprocessing plants and will produce some five tons of plutonium by reprocessing 800 tons of spent nuclear fuel every year, the spokesman said.

The 380-square-meter complex, being built as part of Japan's program to meet future energy needs, consists of three key facilities—a uranium enrichment plant, a low-level nuclear waste storage center and the reprocessing plant for spent nuclear fuel.

The reprocessing plant will handle spent nuclear fuel from power plants throughout Japan to recover plutonium and usable uranium. dd

North Korea

Spokesman Comments on U.S. Senator's Visit

SK2812045592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea gave the following answer to a question of KCNA today regarding the Korean visit by U.S. Senator Robert Smith and his entourage.

A U.S. senator and his entourage visited Korea from December 19 to 21 upon the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Supreme People's Assembly according to a proposal of the U.S. side.

A U.S. State Department official was included in his entourage.

Their visit to Korea was helpful to the solution to the problem of the remains of U.S. soldiers which had long since been discussed between the two countries.

In the exchange of views with them, we proposed solutions to the problem of remains and the U.S. side mainly raised the POW and MIA problem.

At the talks we made it clear that there is not a single U.S. POW alive in our country and stressed that our concern is to find out and unearth U.S. soldiers' remains and hand them over to the U.S. side.

Some foreign press reported that we confirmed that China did not return U.S. POWs and it kept U.S. POW camps in Manchuria. But this is totally groundless.

We will make every effort in the future, too, to settle the question of finding out and unearthing the remains of U.S. soldiers and of handing them over to the U.S. side.

This matter, however, cannot be solved by the efforts of one side but can be smoothly solved only when both sides behave with faith.

Daily Says U.S. Blocking Reunification

SK2812102692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 28 Dec 92

["U.S. Imperialists Are Very One Who Blocks Peace and Reunification of Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 28 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are the very one who has viciously blocked peace and reunification of the country historically, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

The recent decision of the U.S. imperialists to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises with the South Korean rulers is a deliberate move to block the peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, the article notes, and goes on:

The United States, together with the South Korean authorities, took military steps to resume the "Team Spirit" and deploy the U.S. Airforce and Navy in South Korea before an "emergency" as "rapid deployment and deterrent combat force", crying over the fictitious "suspicion of nuclear development by the North" at a time when the North-South agreement and joint declaration on denuclearisation and annexed agreements for their implementation have been adopted and effectuated and a new historical turn for national reconciliation, unity, peace and reunification has been created between the North and the South.

When the July 4 North-South joint statement was published in the early 1970s, the United States let the former South Korean dictator Pak Chong-hui make a permanent division of Korea a policy through the "June 23 special declaration" and continued to ship new military equipment in South Korea and ceaselessly staged aggressive war manoeuvres, while talking volubly about "dialogue based on the position of strength".

Only recently they staged "Eagle 92" and "Hwarang" military exercises to foil the first meetings of North-South joint committees scheduled for November and refused to withdraw the decision to resume the "Team Spirit", thus finally bringing to suspension the 9th inter-Korean high-level talks due to be held from December 21.

In taking issue with the North's non-existent nuclear problem the United States seeks to justify its policy of occupying South Korea and moves to make it a nuclear base, to ignite a war against the North on the pretext of its "nuclear problem" and gratify its wild aggressive design on the whole of Korea.

As long as the United States persists in its moves of aggression and war, keeping hold on South Korea, peace and reunification cannot be achieved on the Korean peninsula. The U.S. imperialists must cancel the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" and immediately withdraw from South Korea, taking along their aggression forces and nuclear weapons.

Daily Views Cheney's Remarks on Nuclear Weapons

SK2512105292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 25 Dec 92

["Undisguised Expression of Ambition for Nuclear Monopoly"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—U.S. Defence Secretary Cheney, recently declared in public that the United States was intending to purchase highly-enriched uranium from the former Soviet Union. He said it must catch the ball before the bound as other countries might use that for non-peaceful purpose. Commenting on this, MINJU CHOSON today says his remarks revealed the ambition of the nuclear fanatics for nuclear monopoly.

Noting that the United States has the greatest amount of nuclear weapons and materials for their production in the world and is kicking up an adventurous racket of nuclear war in South Korea, the news analyst goes on:

Cheney's claim fully reveals the shamelessness of the U.S. this is a token of the heinous desire of the U.S. imperialists to monoplize nuclear weapons.

This is a criminal intention against the trend of disarmament and detente.

The United States would be well advised to give up the ambition of nuclear monopoly and act with discretion.

JNCC Chairman Telephones Counterpart in South

SK2612111492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1101 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—Choe U-chin, chairman of the North side to the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC], sent a telephone message to his South Korean counterpart Saturday regarding the fact that the South side is opposed to the opening of the 14th meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, insisting only on the contact of members.

The message said that an insidious intention of the South side which does not want the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula is lurking behind its persistent action turning down the North's just proposal to hold the meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and contact of its members in parallel and arguing for having only the contact of members.

If the South side really has the intention to smoothly promote the work of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, it must not drag on the time but quickly set the date of the committee meeting and inform the North side of it, the message said, proposing once again to have a contact of members according to it.

Further on Message

SK2612131992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1212 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Choe U-chin, our side's chairman of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC], sent a telephone message to Kong No-myong, the South side's chairman, today. The telephone message noted:

Today the North-South JNCC has the important task of accelerating the North-South inspection and realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula so as to fulfill the yearning of the fellow countrymen to free this land from nuclear weapons and the danger of nuclear war at an early date. Therefore, to make a breakthrough in the grave crisis facing the JNCC, our side has sent your side two telephone messages proposing that basic meetings and members' contacts be held concurrently.

Regrettably, however, your side rejected our just proposal and insisted on holding only members' contacts, going so far as to avoiding acceding to our side's generous offer that your side decide the date for the 14th JNCC meeting at your side's convenience. Our proposal for holding discussions while concurrently holding the basic meetings and members' contacts is reasonable in every respect and very appropriate. Nevertheless, your side opposed the holding of basic meetings and insisted only on holding members' contacts. We think that lurking behind your side's stubborn attitude is the insidious intention that your side does not want the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and plans to prolong even the discussion of the North-South nuclear inspection rules indefinitely.

We make it clear that your side's assertion that only members' contacts be held without deciding even the date for the basic meeting has no feasibility or realistic significance at all. At the same time, we propose again that if your side really intends to promote the work of the JNCC smoothly, you must decide the date for the basic meeting and let us know it at an early date, instead of delaying any longer, and that the two sides hold a members' contact accordingly. We look forward to a positive response from you.

Daily Denounces 'Suspicion' of Nuclear Development

SK2512043692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0409 GMT 25 Dec 92

["NODONG SINMUN on U.S. Imperialists' Outcries Over 'Nuclear Arms Development'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—The outcries of the United States and the South Korean authorities over "nuclear suspicion" against the DPRK are aimed at concealing the U.S. moves to keep South Korea as its nuclear base and South Korea's nuclear armament, diverting elsewhere the attention of the world people and realising their sinister intention to unleash a nuclear war.

In a signed commentary entitled "Black and White Become Clearer" NODONG SINMUN today says:

A majority of the world population do not have any doubt about our peaceful nuclear policy but sympathize with its honesty. Even the director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency said he had no information about the manufacture of nuclear weapons by Pyongyang.

Only the United States, the South Korean authorities and other seditious forces are making much ado, branding our peaceful nuclear policy as "doubtful."

It is not we but the United States and the South Korean authorities that block the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and pose nuclear threat.

The U.S. President's statement that tactical nuclear weapons had been withdrawn from South Korea and the South Korean chief executive's "declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons" were all sheer lies. U.S. nuclear weapons are still hidden in underground secret arsenals and U.S. nuclear submarines frequent naval bases of South Korea. It has been brought to light recently that the South Korean authorities, at the instigation of the United States, have long since promoted the development of nuclear weapons.

Their outcries over "development of nuclear arms" by the DPRK remind us of a thief crying "stop thief"

the United States and the South Korean authorities must frankly admit and apologize for their criminal acts.

Daily Assails Nakasone's Remark on Nuclear Issue

SK2412011092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0022 GMT 18 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 18 December commentary: "The Nuclear Maniac's Insidious Scheme"]

[Text] Former Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone has reportedly stated that the republic is a source of nuclear threat, babbling on that Japan is trying to resolve this issue through international cooperation. In other words, it is attempting to make our nuclear issue an international issue. This reveals an insidious scheme by the Japanese ruling class to isolate us internationally, oppress our socialist system by force of arms, and put collective pressure upon us. Trying to turn our nuclear issue into an international one will only put the brakes on a resolution of the nuclear issue, which has been being resolved smoothly, and will make this issue even more complicated.

The reason Nakasone babbled about our republic's nuclear threat is to intentionally distort the truth. His remarks are a fictitious fabrication contrary to reason. The reason the nuclear issue occurred on the Korean peninsula is that the United States brought nuclear weapons into South Korea. The United States turned South Korea into a advanced nuclear base and frequently holds nuclear war exercises. Therefore, the nuclear threat to us is even greater, as we are under nuclear threat every moment. Also, trying to falsely accuse our Republic, which has neither the intention nor the ability to produce nuclear weapons, of developing nuclear weapons and posing a nuclear threat is preposterous.

Our Republic is making all efforts to fundamentally eliminate the nuclear threat in Korea and denuclearize the Korean peninsula. We are undergoing an International Atomic Energy Agency inspection of nuclear facilities, and the peaceful purpose and innocence of our Republic's nuclear policy has been proven.

If the nuclear threat is to be eliminated on the Korean peninsula, overall inspection of U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea should be conducted, and U.S. nuclear weapons should be completely withdrawn from South Korea. This is a fundamental way to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

If Nakasone is truly interested in eliminating the nuclear threat on the Korean peninsula and guaranteeing peace, he should certainly discuss the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons. He is keeping silent, however, on this fundamental issue and is rather preposterously babbling about our nonexistent nuclear threat. This shows that he is acting as a defender and protecting U.S. attempts to make South Korea its nuclear base and the U.S. nuclear war policy on Korea.

Nakasone is in no position to poke his nose into Korea's nuclear issue. Nakasone advocates an arms increase. From the time he came to power, he insisted that Japan possess nuclear weapons; he secretly and actively promoted the plan to arm itself with nuclear weapons. He is a nuclear maniac who was enthusiastic in fulfilling the U.S. strategy of a nuclear war.

For this kind of person to babble about someone else's nuclear issue and to talk about resolving this issue through international efforts can be seen as a way to hide the maneuvers of the Japanese authorities to accelerate their work to arm themselves with nuclear weapons.

Japan's attempts to arm itself with nuclear weapons is becoming a new nuclear threat in Asia. People of Asia and the rest of the world are expressing great concern and apprehension over Japan's ambition to become a military and nuclear power. A concentrated expression of this is the world-wide storm of protest opposing Japan's shipping of plutonium.

However they babble about our nuclear threat, figures like Nakasone cannot turn aside world-wide criticism and denunciation, which is being focused on Japan. Also, Japan's attempt to arm itself with nuclear weapons cannot be rationalized. The more Japan finds fault with someone else, the more it will increase the world's suspicion and vigilance.

Russia Dismisses Rumor of Scientists' Arrest

SK2512110692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—Media of Britain and some other Western countries and South Korea a few days ago spread the rumor that Russian nuclear experts were arrested while attempting to defect to the northern half of Korea.

As a spokesman for the Russian Security Ministry dismissed this report as incorrect, it is totally unfounded. Spreading an incoherent rumor is another intrigue to provoke the peaceloving DPRK.

They resorted to such intrigues as the justice of the DPRK's peaceful nuclear policy has been proved all the more clearly, while the U.S. and South Korean authorities' nuclear war moves and shameless anti-DPRK campaign have been brought to full light.

They contrived such black propaganda in a bid to justify the U.S. policy of keeping South Korea as a nuclear base and the South Korean authorities' development of nuclear weapons. It is a habitual practice of the United States and the South Korean authorities to groundlessly take issue with others each time they find themselves in a fix and the afore-said rumor is a link in the chain of their foolish attempts to do harm to the DPRK.

The world's progressive people who love justice and peace will never be taken in by the imperialists and the South Korean authorities' intrigues and deception.

Those who try to find a way out of their difficult position in plot-breeding and fabrication are bound to face fiercer condemnation and rejection from the unbiased public opinion of the world.

End to Palestinian Deportation Order Urged

SK2512010492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1506 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry spokesman on 24 December 1992—read by announcer]

[Text] Some days ago Israel arrested 418 Palestinians in their houses in the occupied Arab lands and in other areas and deported them by force.

The deported Palestinians are now suffering all kinds of difficulties in an uninhabited area south of Lebanon. Israel has never hesitated to suppress and commit barbarities against the Palestinian people. This time Israel used force to deport them from their fatherland. This infringes upon the human rights and violates international law.

The UN Security Council's resolution adopted on 24 May 1991 and the Fourth Geneva Treaty declare that the deportation of Palestinian people should be stopped and that they should be returned to their fatherland. Nevertheless, Israel's forcible deportation clearly reveals its intention to trample underfoot the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and to stay in the occupied Arab lands forever. This action may affect the hard-won Middle East peace process negatively and may result in further aggravating the situation in the Middle East.

Expressing deep apprehension about this development in the Middle East, we appeal to Israel to withdrawing the deportation order against the Palestinians so that they can return safely to their homes as soon as possible.

We will continue to express positive support for and firm solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle to restore their national rights. We will always pay close attention to the efforts of the people in this region to settle the Mideast issue peacefully.

[Dated] 24 December 1992, Pyongyang

Bangladeshi Delegation Meets With Kim Il-song

SK2512113892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the visiting government economic delegation of Bangladesh headed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Khondeker Mosharraf Hossain.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Premier Kim Talhyon, Chairman Yi Song-tae and Vice-Chairman Chong Song-nam of the state external economic affairs commission and Bangladeshi Ambassador E.P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to Korea C.M. Shafi Sami.

The head of the delegation conveyed a personal letter of Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to President Kim Il-song.

President Kim Il-song conversed with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The head of the delegation presented him with a gift.

Presents Gift to Kim Chong-il

SK2512113992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was presented with a gift by the head of the Bangladeshi government economic delegation on a visit to Korea.

The gift was handed to an official concerned by head of the delegation Khondeker Mosharraf Hossain.

SKNDF Envoy to Cuba Holds News Conference

SK2412040192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Yi Chong-sang, representative of the South Korea National Democratic Front [SKNDF] mission to Cuba, held a news conference on 17 December in connection with the fact that maneuvers by the South Korean ruling bunch for nuclear development has reached a dangerous level. Reporters from the Cuban newspaper, communication, and broadcast participated in the news conference.

During the news conference, Yi Chong-sang said that the development of nuclear weapons in South Korea, which began during the Pak Chong-hui regime in 1965, is endangering peace on the Korean peninsula and Asia.

He declared that South Korea already possesses plutonium that can produce Nagasaki-type nuclear bombs on a large scale. He also revealed that facilities and technology to develop nuclear weapons are being developed on a full-scale. He emphasized that South Korea's attempt to arm itself with nuclear weapons is being brought to the fore as today's reality, not tomorrow's possibility.

He said that the situation is becoming all the more grave because South Korea's maneuver to develop nuclear weapons and maneuver to make South Korea a nuclear base of the United States are linked with each other. He stated that nuclear submarines of the U.S. imperialists' nuclear submarine base in Chinhae entered and exited this port on about 40 occasions and continue to do so.

He said he hoped that the world's progressive peace-loving forces would heighten their awareness of South Korea's rapidly growing toadstools which are producing nuclear weapons, and that they should vigorously carry out an international movement to check this.

Cuba-DPRK Committee Marks Anniversary

SK2512064492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] A meeting was held on the afternoon of 21 December at the Chollima Cultural Hall to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee. Portraits of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and respected Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz were placed at the front of the meeting hall. Signs with slogans that read "Long live the invincible militant friendship and solidarity" and "We extend firm solidarity with the heroic Cuban people's struggle" were placed around the meeting hall.

Present at the meeting were Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and arts; Chong Song-nam, vice chairman of the External Economy Commission and chairman of the Korean-Cuban Solidarity Committee; Han Son-kuk, vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries; Choe Hyon-tok, vice chairman of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea Central Committee; (Yi So-yong), vice chairman of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea Central Committee; and other pertinent officials, along with workers in the city.

Also present at the meeting were Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to our country, and other embassy officials, and Cuban guests.

The meeting opened with the playing of the national anthems of Cuba and our country. Chong Song-nam spoke. He said that the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee was meaningfully marked at a time when all people across the country are vigorously marching forward for a new victory at the call of the party and the leader and that he extends the Korean people's warm militant greetings to the fraternal Cuban people. He went on to say:

[Begin Chong Song-nam recording] The formation of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee in December 1962 was an important occasion for strengthening and developing the friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Cuban people, which were established in the struggle for socialism. Out of a desire to strengthen the fraternal ties between the Korean and Cuban people, under the wise leadership of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK], the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee has held annual congresses and various other meetings, taken a series of steps to beef up its functions and roles, and expanded and developed its work in compliance with the demands of the developing times for the past 30 years since its founding. To crush the imperialists' anti-Cuban maneuvers and support and encourage the Cuban people's cause of justice, the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee recently has vigorously carried out various solidarity movements by releasing statements and sending cables and letters and has made positive efforts to further strengthen ties with the Cuban Committee To Support Korea's Reunification and various other Cuban friendship organizations and units and Cuban friends.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out: The Korean and Cuban people have all walked along the honorable revolutionary roads and are today marching forward under the uplifted banner of revolution and socialism face to face with the U.S. imperialists.

The heroic Cuban people overthrew the Batista dictatorial regime and cultivated a socialist road for the first time in the Western Hemisphere by waging an arduous armed struggle under the leadership of the outstanding leader Comrade Fidel Castro. [applause]

As a result of the Cuban people's devoted struggle and creative efforts, Cuba has been turned into a free island and a reliable socialist fortress in the Western Hemisphere where the people's age-old desires and ideals are blossoming in reality.

Today, the Cuban people are positively accelerating socialist construction while crushing the challenges and obstructionist maneuvers by the imperialists. Ever since the Cuban revolution's victory, the imperialists have resorted to armed intervention, economic blockades, and various other acts of subversion and sabotage to strangle Cuba. These anti-Cuban maneuvers are now more vicious than ever.

No matter how desperately the imperialists may try, the heroic Cuban people, strongly united around the Communist Party of Cuba led by Comrade Fidel Castro, are strongly defending national independence and dignity under the slogan "Let us defend the fatherland, the revolution, and socialism according to the strategy of a special period of peace time."

The Cuban people are registering new successes in their struggle to increase production and conservation by displaying high revolutionary zeal. They are also preparing for full combat readiness in case of possible aggression and provocations by enemies and are struggling in the spirit of [words indistinct].

We extend full support and encouragement to the Cuban people's struggle to defeat the repeated anti-Cuban offensive, to build socialism, and thus to defend peace in the Caribbean and Central American regions. At the same time, we strongly condemn the United States' anti-Cuban maneuvers.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the Korean people are vigorously waging the great march movement of the nineties with overflowing faith and optimism on all fronts of socialist construction in order to safeguard and defend resolutely and to add more luster to the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style. Also, they are vigorously struggling to achieve the country's peace and its independent and peaceful reunification.

U.S. and South Korean authorities have decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise using our so-called and nonexistent nuclear development as a pretext, and are thus advancing along the road of aggravating North-South confrontation. Our people's struggle to achieve national reunification through a democratic confederal republic of Koryo on the basis of the three principles of independence, peace, and great national unity has won great support and sympathy from the peace-loving people of the world, including the Cuban people, because of its justness.

The Cuban people have condemned the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and expressed firm solidarity with our people's cause of justice.

I take this opportunity to express deep thanks to the Cuban people who have extended invariable support and encouragement to the Korean people's cause of justice and, at the same time, to sincerely wish the Cuban people greater success in their struggle to build socialism and to defend the country in response to the decision of the fourth congress of the Communist Party of Cuba. [applause]

Strengthening unity and solidarity is an important guarantee for victory of the anti-imperialist cause for independence, that is, the socialist cause. The Korean-Cuban friendship that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the Cuban people's supreme leader Comrade Fidel Castro personally forged is today infinitely consolidating and developing in defiance of the trials of struggle, and this has become an outstanding model of the comradely relations between the peoples of the mutually respected countries. [applause]

Developing friendship and solidarity between Korea and Cuba not only accords with their basic demands and interests but also contributes greatly to their anti-imperialist cause for independence and socialism.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has always been extremely interested in strengthening and developing friendship and solidarity beween the people of the two countries of Korea and Cuba. [applause]

Our people, who treasures friendship with the revolutionary people, will firmly join hands with the people of the socialist countries, including the Cuban people, and vigorously struggle for the victory of the cause of independence, the cause of socialism.

The friendship and solidarity between the Korean and Cuban people—which is based on exceptionally deep and intimate relations between the leaders of Korea and Cuba and the sincere and solid comradely trust between them, and the cause of socialism which is firmly linked into one goal—will be eternal and immortal. [applause] [end recording]

Cuban Ambassador Juan Jose Leon Vega spoke next. After extending deep thanks to the WPK, the DPRK Government, and the Korean people, who have extended support and solidarity to the Cuban people's struggle ever since the Cuba-Korea Solidarity Committee was formed, he continued:

[Begin Vega recording, in Spanish with superimposed translation into Korean] On this occasion I must refer to Comrade President Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people, and Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, our supreme commander, who are the great creators of this solid (?committee) and who have always paid much attention to consolidating and developing the ties of friendship and solidarity between Cuba and the DPRK. [applause]

These relations of friendship and solidarity were further consolidated during Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz's visit to the DPRK and his historic meeting with Comrade President Kim Il-song. Since then, friendship and solidarity between the people of the two countries have been further consolidated and diversified.

[passage indistinct] During the 47th UN General Assembly, you contributed to the Assembly's adoption, with the consent of the DPRK and friendly countries, a resolution demanding that the United States end its 30 years-long economic, trade, and financial blockade against Cuba. This was an important victory for the Cuban people, and a shameful defeat for the U.S. imperialists. [applause]

We also must refer to the traditional international movement for solidarity with the Cuban people, which is demonstrated through protests against the Torricelli Bill designed to further strengthen the economic blockade against Cuba with a wild-goose aim of [words indistinct] and of isolating Cuba internationally.

International societies protest the U.S. imperialists and their puppets' actions, as we all do. In connection with this, we have received letters from various DPRK organizations and associations insisting on continuing the righteous struggle to support us.

Marking the anniversary of the founding of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee, I would like to express our deep gratitude to all units for the solidarity between the DPRK and Cuba, which have conducted various activities for solidarity with our people during the past 30 years and which have displayed the DPRK political and administrative functionaries' and the working people's zeal and solidarity with the Cuban people at every opportunity. [applause]

The patient and energetic activities conducted by these units for friendship and solidarity between the two countries have enabled the DPRK people and working people to see Cuban people struggle and live their lives to increase production and defend the country in accordance with the strategy of a special period of peace time.

Our Cuban people working in the DPRK can feel directly the DPRK working people's respect, friendship, and solidarity when they help the DPRK working people working on farms or on important construction sites in the nation on every occasion of various events for solidarity, friendship, unity between the two countries, and feel revolutionary (?comradeship) and satisfaction that we are making even a small contribution to the DPRK's vigorous development.

Korean people, please understand that all of your successes and victories in economic construction give pleasure and satisfaction to all the Cuban people.

We hope that the industrious and devoted Korean people, who are victoriously pushing ahead with socialist construction by upholding the great leader of liberty Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, will always achieve greater successes. [applause]

On the occasion of this meaningful meeting, we reaffirm our invariable support of the (?historic) aspiration of the 70 million North and South Korean people to reunify the Korean peninsula and to make it one nation, one fatherland, and one country. [applause] The Cuban people will always support you in this lofty struggle. [applause]

We protest to the South Korean authorities and U.S. imperialists for trying to resume the offensive and aggressive Team Spirit joint military exercise that has no other purpose than to deter the implementation of the North-South agreement and put pressure on the DPRK with a groundless rumor about our nuclear development.

At a time when the worldwide revolutionary movement faces a serious crisis caused by the collapse of socialist countries in East Europe and the dissolution and ruin of the former Soviet Union, and when a single-polar world headed by the United States, which claims to be the international military police, is going to be established, you and the DPRK have a mission to uphold and defend the banner of socialism.

Today the Cuban and DPRK people should vigorously step forward, by [words indistinct] and by uniting themselves more firmly than ever, under the righteous leadership of the great leaders Comrade President Kim Il-song and Comrade Supreme Commander Fidel Castro Ruz and under the correct guidance of the WPK and the Communist Party of Cuba so as to continuously overcome all difficulties and obstacles that keep this lofty goal from being realized. [applause]

Hurrah, the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee! [applause] Long live Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of the Korean people! [applause] Long live Comrade Fidel Castro, the supreme commander of the Cuban revolution! [applause] Long live Comrade Kim Chong-il, the dear leader of the fraternal Korean people! [applause] [end recording]

The meeting ends with playing of the "Internationale."

Choe Kwang Attends Meeting Honoring Kim Chong-il

SK2512052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—Soldiers of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and servicemen of the Ministry of Public Security significantly celebrated the first anniversary of the election of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

In his report at a meeting held by the Ministry of People's Armed Forces Thursday, Vice Marshal of the KPA Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and chief of General Staff of the KPA, said that the election of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army at the historical 19th plenary meeting of the 6th Central Committee of the WPK on December 24 last year was a clear manifestation of the unanimous wish and will of the Korean people and the KPA officers and men to remain loyal and filial to him, holding him at the head of the revolutionary Armed Forces.

It was under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, that the KPA has attained the highest stage of its development and brought a great change and proud success unprecedented in the history of the army building in the last one year, the reporter stated.

He quoted the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as saying:

"Our People's Army guided by supreme commander Kim Chong-il is sure to win every battle with any strong enemy".

The reporter pointed out that in the last one year, the revolutionary spirit and militancy of the People's Army have been intensified still further through the all-army ideological campaign and its military and technical might been incomparably strengthened.

Stressing that this great change clearly proves that the leadership of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army is the lifeblood of the KPA and a decisive guarantee for all victories, the reporter emphasized that the whole army should thoroughly ensure the monolithic idea and guidance of the supreme commander.

Celebration meetings were also held at KPA units of all levels that day.

A meeting of servicemen of the Ministry of Public Security took place on December 23.

In his report, Chang Song-u, director of the Political Department of the Ministry of Public Security, called for bringing a new turn in the whole work of the public security organs in keeping with the rapidly-changing situation and the requirements of the developing revolution and appealed to the public security officers and soldiers of the People's Security Force to resolutely defend the Workers' Party of Korea and the socialist cause of chuche and accelerate the historical cause of national reunification.

A letter of pledge to Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Daily Says Military Strength Based on Loyalty

SK2412112092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1045 GMT 24 Dec 92

["Glory to Our Revolutionary Armed Forces"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 24 (KCNA)—The invincible might of the Korean People's Army is immediately a political and ideological might, which is based on the intense loyalty to staunchly fight under the leadership of Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, declares NODONG SINMUN today.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, was elected supreme commander of the Korean People's Army at the 19th plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held last year.

This was an epoch-making event of great importance in the building of our revolutionary Armed Forces and the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

In an editorial headlined "Glory to Our Revolutionary Armed Forces " the paper says:

The election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the Korean People's Army guarantees greater victory and glory to our revolutionary Armed Forces advancing under the guidance of the party and the leader.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"It is our party's highest honour and pride to have the People's Army which resolutely defends the party and the leader and carries out the party's orders and instructions through thick and thin."

In upholding the supreme commander, the Korean People's Army is preparing itself firmly as loyal revolutionary Armed Forces resolutely defending the party and the leader.

A steel-like discipline and order and well-organized commanding system have been established in our people's army whereby the whole Army acts as one on the orders and instructions of the supreme commander.

The officers and men of the people's army unconditionally carry out the orders and instructions of the supreme commander in time through thick and thin and perform heroic feats and miracles in military service.

The revolutionary morale of our army implies the fervent loyalty of the entire officers and men to firmly trust and uphold the supreme commander with a true heart, the steel-like discipline and order based on a high degree of political consciousness and the absoluteness and unconditionality with which to carry out his orders and instructions any time under any circumstances. That is why our people's army is so strong and no enemy dare provoke it.

In upholding the supreme commander, our people's army is preparing itself in military technique so as to defeat any formidable enemy.

The combat capabilities of our People's Army are increasing in every way as it is firmly armed with military science and technology and up-to-date military technical equipment which accord with the demand of modern warfare and the specific conditions of our country.

In upholding the supreme commander, our party's idea of unity between the Army and the people is being exalted and the unbreakable relations between them are being consolidated.

Our party is victoriously leading the revolutionary cause of chuche, decisively smashing any challenge of the enemy, because it has the loyal army of the people. Our socialism is making a long drive because the People's Army is strong.

The people's army is dependable revolutionary Armed Forces of our party and the strong fortress of our socialism.

The officers and men of the heroic Korean People's Army are revolutionary soldiers loyal to the supreme commander.

The Korean People's Army is enjoying undisputed trust from all people for its ardent loyalty to the party and the revolutionary cause, its spirit of devoted service for the country and the people and its exploits for the socialist cause.

No force on earth can check the advance of this iron unit with an invincible might.

Daily Outlines Future Tasks of Intellectuals

SK2212031092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0018 GMT 14 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 14 December editorial: "Intellecutals Should Further Add Luster to Socialism of Our Style"]

[Text] The Korean intellectuals' meeting, which generated great interest and expectation among our party and all the people, came to a close after successfully debating their work. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who show a great interest in and extreme care for our intellectuals all the time, prepared the great meeting this time, which is unprecedent in history. In addition, they personally participated in the meeting and posed for photographs commemorating their attendance. In so doing, they made participants and intellectuals feel honored.

All participants and intellectuals, who had the highest honor to have a meeting in the presence of the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, are overflowing with boundless gratitude and emotion. They are also burning with a whole-hearted desire to repay the party's and the leader's great trust and expectation with loyalty.

The party Central Committee sent its congratulatory message to the Korean intellectuals' meeting and warmly greeted participants and intellectuals from all over the country. It has brilliantly elucidated the militant tasks facing our intellectuals at present.

The Korean intellectuals' meeting—in which intellectuals from the ideological, cultural, scientific, and technological fronts over the county attednded together—was a meeting of victors and a meeting of glory. This meeting has been brilliantly remained in history of building our party and of constructing our people's socialism.

From the standpoint of firm chuche-oriented position, our party has taken unprecedent historic steps to carve a hammer, a sickle, and a writing brush on our party's mark without sticking to the existing theories and experiences. As a result, it has pioneered the creative road to more correctly solve the intellectuals' problems.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: Our party has endlessly led intellectuals' destiny in a responsible manner, while considering them an eternal companion of the revolution. It has also educated them in a revolutionary manner so that they can constantly fight on along the single road of the revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has early defined intellectuals as a component of the main forces of the revolution. He has presented a creative idea and policy to foster them as enthusiastic revolutionaries. He has also raised the revolutionary intellectuals' large Army unit. As a result, he has brilliantly resolved the most important problem that determines the socialist destiny.

Our party's policy—which recognizes the writing brush and respects intellectuals in the revolution and construction and which is designed to foster them as enthusiastic chuche-oriented revolutionaries—has been more brilliantly embodied in the rewarding march that makes the whole society chuche-idea.

In conformity with the demands of making the whole society chuche-idea, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has further developed and enriched the chuche revolutionary theory toward intellectuals' problem. He has monolithically codified the theory. He has also presented a revolutionary policy to enhance intellectuals' role in the revolution and construction.

Our party has enabled intellectuals to glorify their honor as eternal companions, faithful supporters, and outstanding advisers of the party and as enthusiastic protectors and facilitators of party policy. It has also led them to move firmly forward along the single road of the revolution by following the party's leadership forever.

Because of this, a large Army unit with 1,600,000 [paekyuksipman] revolutionary intellectuals has been fostered in our country. Based on their conviction, all intellectuals are upholding the party's cause. This is a very important factor that enables the socialism of our own style to advance victoriously under any tribulation.

Cohesion and unity have been consolidated into something indomitable. A bright prospect has been opened for the road of socialism of our own style. These facts eloquently justify our party's policy toward intellectuals and its great vitality.

The whole course of this meeting has been overflowing with intellectuals' high admiration for the extraordinary farsightedness of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song—who presented the creative policy toward intellectuals during the period of building a new society and who, by embodying the policy, has prepared a large Army unit of revolutionary intellectuals who are endlessly loyal to the party and the revolution—and for the wisdom of our party's leadership. This meeting has been also overflowed with their boundless trust in the party and the leader.

This was a meeting of loyalty and single-hearted unity. It has demonstrated the invincible conviction and firm will of all Korean intellectuals who want to safeguard, adhere to, and glorify the socialism of our own style to the end by firmly uniting as one around the party and the leader. It has also more firmly consolidated their conviction and will.

Our party is a great guide, endlessly and responsibly protecting and leading intellectuals' destiny. Our party firmly trusts in intellectuals as the revolutionary comrades who can overcome any difficulties and trials with the party's leadership and who can carry out the revolution to the end. Our party is also showing its care and love for intellectuals and is glorifying their creative wisdom and talent.

Thanks to our party's warm and honest trust in intellectuals, our intellectuals are overflowing with a resolve to share their destiny with the party forever by firmly uniting as one organism around it, while regarding the motherly party's solicitude as a lifeline of their true life and struggle whenever and wherever they are. They are resolutely moving forward along the single road our party is leading.

This meeting has vigorously displayed at home and abroad the resolute revolutionary will and indomitable faith of our intellectuals, who will endlessly fight for the victory of the socialist cause by firmly trusting in the party and the leader and by resolutely safeguarding them even though there are numerous trials and difficulties on the road of the revolution. What is reflected here is a great significance and success of the meeting.

This meeting was also historic, providing a significant opportunity for intellectuals to enhance their role in strengthening the revolutionary chuche and in accelerating the socialist construction.

In the past, our intellectuals vigorously conducted a struggle to accelerate the creation and construction in each period and each stage of the development of the revolution under the leadership of the party and the leader. By doing so, they attained the proud achievements in all sectors, such as science, education, culture, arts, publication, information, public health, and sports.

The intellectuals' meeting has summed up with high dignity the brilliant results and successes achieved by our intellectuals under the party's leadership. At the meeting, the intellectuals have firmly resolved to accelerate the ideological, technological, and cultural revolutions and to register heroic feats in all fields of socialist construction by thoroughly implementing the party line and policies, including the general line of socialist construction.

The intellectuals meeting was a meaningful one that gave great faith and optimism to the South Korean intellectuals, who are fighting to achieve reunification of the fatherland in the nineties, and all overseas intellectuals, and that vigorously encouraged the struggle of those intellectuals and progressive people of the world who desire independence.

Today, our intellectuals have a heavy task to enhance further their roles in endlessly glorifying achievements of the party and the leader that have brilliantly solved problems concerning intellectuals and in advancing the cause of socialism of our own style.

In order for our intellectuals to fulfill brilliantly their revolutionary missions, it is most important that they firmly establish the revolutionary view of leader and advance their boundless loyalty to the party and the leader.

Our intellectuals' destinies are directly linked with the destiny of socialism, and the success or failure of the socialist cause is totally dependent on the leader.

To fulfill their loyal and filial duties to the party and the leader is essential for intellectuals' fruitful lives and bright future without turns and twists in their destinies.

All intellectuals should stoutly walk along the single road of loyalty, upholding the party's intent to make them eternal accompanies, faithful supporters, and excellent advisers of our party and fervent protectors and thorough consummators of the party policy in implementing the chuche revolutionary cause.

All intellectuals should firmly believe and follow only their own party and leader under any circumstances, should adhere to the revolutionary faith and principle, and should vigorously struggle to consummate the chuche revolutionary cause, sharing life and death with the party to the end.

There is nothing more honorable for our intellectuals than brilliantly resolving problems that the party desires to settle and submitting a report of loyalty to the party and the leader.

All intellectuals should accept the party line and policy as the only guideline for their lives and struggle, should absolutely support and advocate it, and should actively contribute to upholding the party with their knowledge and technologies.

It is an honorable revolutionary mission for our intellectuals to vigorously push ahead with the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

Upholding the party policy on the ideological revolution, our intellectuals should play the role as standard bearers at the forefront of the struggle to implement it.

The intellectuals, who are engaged in ideological and cultural areas, including social science, publishing and press, and literature and arts, should deeply bear the honor and sense of responsibility as outpost guards of our party's ideological and cultural front. They should be active indoctrinators and propagators who broadly explain and propagate our party's revolutionary ideology, the chuche idea, the greatness of the party, and the superiority of socialism of our own style in accordance with the feature of each one's own sector. They also should be organizers and mobilizers who vigorously agitate the masses to implementing the party policy.

To accelerate the construction of socialist culture is a revolutionary mission that our intellectuals should implement.

Upholding our party's chuche-oriented policy of education, culture, and public health, out intellectuals should bring up the new growing generation to be capable scientists, technicians, and experts as well as chuche-type human beings. Also, they should actively struggle to accelerate the intellectualizing of the entire society and to generally civilize and develop the national culture after socialism.

Our intellectuals, by upholding the party policy on the technological revolution, should be vanguards at the forefront of a struggle to develop the national economy, science, and technology.

Intellectuals at sectors concerned should strengthen the might of the self-reliant people's economy and should elevate the level of overall national science and technology up to the world-leading level as soon as possible by smoothly solving scientific and technological problems in the course of making the people's economy chuche-type, modern, and scientific.

What is important for intellectuals in smoothly fulfilling their honorable missions and duties is to upgrade remarkably their political and ideological level, scientific and theoretical level, and technological and practical quality.

By always establishing the chuche, intellectuals should keep away from all wrong ideologies, which include flunkeyism, dogmatism and revisionism, and should breathe in only our party's ideology and should live and struggle in the way of our own style.

With their high-level sense of organization, all intellectuals should vigorously push on with the work of making revolutionary and working-class the whole society through organizational training and practice.

As the anti-Japanese revolutionary predecessors did in the past, our intellectuals should lead their whole life in a worthwhile and rewarding manner by cherishing a collectivist view of life in which they devote themselves to the party and the revolution without pursuing their own comfort and prosperity whenever and wherever they are.

to this end, in particular, it is important for them to refute the capitalist way of thought which is pursuing only the individualism, egoism, and money. Not for the individual's comfort and prosperity, but for the party, the revolution, the society, and the groups, let us live and struggle like anti-revolutionary guerrilla unit's propagandists and underground operational activists. Our intellectuals should make this today as their principle of life and as their motto.

All intellectuals should cherish a high sense of revolution and a high spirit of the capitalist patriotism. They should also energetically struggle to enhance their own ability.

Intellectuals over the country are now overflowing with a great excitement and are vigorously rising up to attain a great achievement.

Party organizations at all level should make intellectuals cherish deep in their hearts the spirit of the intellectuals' meeting. They should further consolidate the work with intellectuals in conformity with their revolutionary zeal and spirit upsurged in the meeting. As a result, they should be more deeply aware of the party's great trust and care and should lead intellectuals to live up to the party's expectation. They should also positively support, encourage, and inspire intellectuals to attain the achievement of loyalty in implementing the party's policy.

There is no border in science, but intellectuals have the chuche socialist fatherland. A great bright prospect has been opened for our intellectuals' future, who are carrying out the revolution in the chuche socialist fatherland by following the great party's and the leader's leadership.

All intellectuals should more vigorously fight on to safeguard resolutely and adhere to the socialism of our own style and to glorify it endlessly by more firmly uniting as one around the party and the leader.

South Korea

Clinton Team Urged To Formulate Realistic Policy

SK2512051092 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 25 Dec 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Clinton's Security Team"]

[Text] The new Bill Clinton U.S. Administration's foreign policy/national security team has been formed. All of the heavyweights who were considered to be prospective candidates failed to join the team. New people with practical experience and willing to work as a team were appointed instead.

Secretary of State-appointee Christopher, Secretary of Defense-appointee Aspin, National Security Adviser-appointee Lake, and CIA Director-appointee Woolsey are all "moderates," "progressives," or "realists." We think all of them are appointees well-qualified to implement the baby-boomer president's political ideals.

We believe that this foreign policy/national security team will seek new changes in international relations and handle international affairs more efficiently in compliance with the image President-elect Clinton projects. These people handled practical affairs of the human-rights diplomacy during the Carter administration in the late 1970's. Therefore, if they learn from the trials and errors in those days and formulate and implement new diplomatic and security policies appropriate for a time when the 21st century is around the corner, they will be able to build a global peace structure very different from the one we have today.

Excessive enthusiasm may lead to errors. We have witnessed many instances in which when changes were sought or factors that disturb stability and order were casually overlooked. It is important for Clinton's foreign policy/national security team to locate correctly potential factors that may cause trouble throughout the world before formulating and implementing policies; otherwise, it would be difficult for them to be successful, no matter how good their policy vision.

Clinton's national security team attaches importance to arms reduction. A significant number of people support the reduction of U.S. military expenditures, saying that it would contribute to economic recovery. The United States must, however, reduce its armed forces only when armed forces worldwide are reduced at the same time; otherwise, global stability and order may collapse, and many areas of the world will be thrown into a crisis.

In particular, we can see indications emerging that some Northeast Asian countries are competing to fill a vacuum that might be created by a reduction in U.S. Armed Forces from this region and ultimately hold supremacy over this region. If the United States overlooks this, not only our country will worry about China and Japan, which have the potential to become military powers. If the United States reduces its forces in this region, it must force all the countries in this region, including China and Japan, to take corresponding measures, as well. Even while advocating an arms reduction, the United States is selling a new generation of weapons to foreign countries, thus creating regional arms races. As a result, there are some regions where the situation has been aggravated in the post-Cold War global order. Even if this is an immediate way to revitalize the U.S. economy, the Clinton administration must attach importance to formulating a policy more appropriate to reality.

Clinton Message Released Without Authorization

SK2512013692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Dec 92 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Blunder"]

[Text] The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] committed a blunder Wednesday, revealing the congratulatory message sent to President-elect Kim Yong-sam by U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton via the Foreign Ministry.

A close aide to President-elect Kim distributed the transcript of the message to the press, after obtaining a copy from the Foreign Ministry. He collected and redistributed the material to take formal step.

The copy of the document was irregularly handed over to Nam Chu-hong, an advisor for unification and security to Kim. The document was classified and should not have been distributed without authorization, according to the ministry.

An official handed over the telegram to Nam without authorization, said a ministry official. The ministry official said, "This is an example of a lame duck official trying to curry favor with a person in power."

Seoul Prepares Measures To Deal With NAFTA

SK2812103592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0951 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to expand taxational and financial support to those industries investing in the member countries of the North America Free Trade Area (NAFTA) in preparation against the NAFTA going into force in 1994.

This and other measures to prepare against the NAFTA were adopted at an ad hoc committee meeting held at the Kwachon government office Monday under the chair of Vice Economic Planning Minister Han Kap-su.

The meeting decided to promote the conclusion of a double tax prevention agreement and an investment guarantee treaty with Mexico during the planned visit to Korea by Mexican President Carlos Salinas some time in the first half of next year.

A support fund specially earmarked for those investing in the NAFTA and other Latin American countries would be raised from the existing 100 billion won to 150 billion won next year. In addition, commercial banks would be given free hands in raising the ceiling of foreign exchange loans, which now stands at around 103 million dollars.

Among other steps decided on at the meeting was the provision of various taxational incentives such as exemption of overseas investment loss reserves and taxes paid abroad from domestic taxes.

Monday's meeting further decided to encourage industries in the technology development area to advance to the U.S. and Canada, and labor-intensive ones to Mexico. Moreover, to prepare against the bolstered "country of origin" system in the NAFTA countries, the government resolved to advise industries to advance to the area in partnership between large and small industries or through joint-venture with local firms there.

Kim Yong-sam Plans To Visit Japan, U.S.

OW2712112392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 27 KYODO—South Korean President-elect Kim Yong-sam is considering visiting Japan and the United States in the latter half of next year, the YONHAP NEWS AGENCY said Sunday.

YONHAP quoted Kim's aides as saying Kim plans to visit the two countries if a political reform scheme in South Korea is successful in the first six months after his inauguration in February.

Trade Deficit With Japan Remains High

SK2512032492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Dec 92 p 8

[Text] Despite Korea's slumping exports to Japan, a steeper decline in imports will likely pare down Seoul's trade deficit with Tokyo to $7.9 billion this year, from $8.8 billion in 1991.

The bilateral trade shortfall still far exceeds this country's estimated overall trade gap of $5 billion for 1992, eclipsing all improvements in trade with other countries, Minister of Trade and Industry Han Pong-su said yesterday.

At a meeting of 14 export organizations to rectify the chronic trade deficit with Japan, Minister Han called for stepping up the "export drive" to Tokyo by enhancing the competitiveness of Korean goods.

This year, the government went all out to reduce the snowballing red figures in trade with Japan. A summit meeting was arranged between President No Tae-u and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to redress the issue, and foreign currency loans to help finance the imports of Japanese machinery were squeezed but to little avail.

It hopes that Korean exporters will sharply increase exports to Japan in 1993 when the Japanese government introduces a major economy-boosting package by releasing 13.6 trillion yen and opening wider its import market, as the country's trade surplus surpasses $100 billion.

The ministry will particularly focus on increasing the shipment of 1,231 items for which the Japanese government will cut import duties by 10 percent for an additional two years, Minister Han said. Korea's exports of these preferential items amounted to $3.16 billion this year.

When the Japanese government's large public projects get fully under way, there will arise a boom in demand for such construction materials as iron rods and tiles, as well as capital goods for the supply of electricity, gas and telecommunication services, officials said.

To reduce imports from Japan, the ministry will push ahead with its five-year machinery localization program, nationalize 52 key technology items with the government's subsidy of 10 billion won and localize 56 electronic parts at a cost of 20 billion won. It also will expand application of the import relief system to prevent Japanese products being dumped here, they said.

Other measures include facilitating the exchange of technological manpower, promoting the relocation of Japan's technology-intensive but declining industries to Korea and expanding dialogue channels between various levels of government and business officials between the two countries.

Japan Urged To End 'Coverup' of War Atrocities

SK2312093592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 23 (YONHAP)—A multi-membered Korean organization, marking its 50th week of demonstrations outside the Japanese Embassy, called on the Japanese Government to stop its coverup of wartime atrocities Wednesday.

The Korea Council for the Women drafted for sexual service by Japan, in a letter of resolution, demanded that Japan bring all of its unscrupulous wartime acts to light.

It said Japan should halt its scheme to solve the issue of comfort girls with money instead of official apologies and called for Tokyo's efforts to find out the real facts of the sexual abuse of Korean women by imperial Japan for its soldiers during World War II.

Japan must make proper compensation in accordance with international law based on the results of fact-finding, the council asserted.

It urged the government to reject the Japanese plan to provide the victims with financial support through the Red Cross, saying that it was an act putting the cart before the horse.

It charged that Japan was trying to avoid official compensation for the Korean victims and not digging into the real facts of the issue.

Korea should take the initiative in the investigation and work out measures to aid and console all of the former comfort girls who were forced into sex slavery, it said.

It also appealed to Koreans for active participation in a fundraising movement for the unfortunate women.

Seoul To Resume 'New Relations' With Taiwan

SK2512032892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok returned home yesterday via Hong Kong after winding up a three-day visit to Vietnam, which was highlighted by the signing Tuesday of a joint statement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Seoul and Hanoi.

Yi told reporters before leaving the crown colony Wednesday that the government would seek to establish "new relations" with Taiwan soon after President-elect Kim Yong-sam is sworn in Feb. 25.

He also predicted that the matter would be settled in a smooth manner at an early date.

South Korea severed its diplomatic ties with Taiwan upon its establishment of formal ties with China Aug. 25.

Chinese Trade Mission Arrives in Seoul 23 Dec

SK2412061592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] A Chinese buying mission arrived in Seoul yesterday in order to purchase Korean-made products and promote trade between the two countries.

Gong Jiaqi, vice president of the state-run China Everbright Group, is leading the 12-member team which will consult with domestic firms on buying Korean goods.

During its eight-day stay with the help of the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA), the Chinese delegation is expected to buy electronics goods such as televisions and video tape recorders (VTRs), footwear, leather goods, cosmetics and processed food products.

Gong and other delegates will meet KOTRA president Kim Chol-su today to discuss ways of enhancing economic cooperation. They are also scheduled to meet executives of major electronics Co., Hyundai Electronics Industries Co. and Daewoo Electronics Co.

The team will look around the Lotte and Hyundai department stores Friday. It also visit Samsung Co., Hyosong Corp. and Kolon Industries to look for purchasable items.

KOTRA officials do not expect the delegation to buy much. But they said the mission will provide an opportunity for Korean firms to gain footholds in the Chinese market.

The dispatch of the mission is symbolic as China is likely to lower tariffs on foreign goods after its expected joining of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in March next year.

It is the first time that China sent such a buying mission to Korea.

The China Everbright Group consists of 10 subsidiaries including banking, trading, distribution, travel and real estate development companies. Its affiliate China Everbright Trading Co. deals with the export and import business.

North To Resume Talks if Team Spirit Stopped

SK2512005092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0034 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea said it is willing to resume inter-Korean prime ministers' talks only after the South Korea-U.S. joint military exercise "Team Spirit" scheduled for March or April, a government official said Friday.

North Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu told U.S. Senator Bob Smith who visited Pyongyang last weekend that North Korea will halt inter-Korean dialogue as long as Seoul goes ahead with Team Spirit, the official said. Kang also warned inter-Korean nuclear negotiations are not like to succeed in any near future, he said.

Smith, vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs, was in the North Korean capital as the first American Congressman to go there to discuss repatriation of some 8,000 missing U.S. soldiers from the Korean war (1950-1953).

"Kang made clear to Smith Pyongyang will halt inter-Korean dialogue as long as Team Spirit exercise takes place," the government official said.

Team Spirit was held annually from 1976 but was canceled for this year when North Korea signed the Nuclear Safeguards Accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). But Seoul and Washington decided to resume it for next year unless Pyongyang agreed to accept inter-Korean simultaneous nuclear inspection.

Ninth South-North Korean prime ministers' talks were scheduled for Dec. 21-24 but were aborted from Pyongyang's objection to this decision.

"Kang predicted an agreement on inter-Korean nuclear inspection is not likely anytime soon," said the official, "we do not expect progress for some time to come."

Demands Working-Level Talks First

SK2612064792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Seoul insisted Saturday that Pyongyang agree to working-level nuclear talks before a full session convenes, saying it will not attend the talks otherwise.

Kong No-myong, Southern-side chairman of inter-Korean Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), sent a message to his North Korean counterpart, Choe U-chin, asking him to set a date for the next working-level meeting.

"We urge you to agree to the working-level talks as soon as possible to negotiate the simultaneous nuclear inspection regime if you indeed are committed to conducting the inspections," Kong's message to Choe said.

It was a response to a message received earlier in the day urging Seoul to set a date for a full commission meeting.

Seoul refuses to open a JNCC session, saying it is useless unless working-level talks clear all the details first, leaving the commission with the simple duty of signing the agreement on nuclear inspections.

Mutual Inspection 'Unlikely'

SK2512093892 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] North Korea has reportedly made it clear that it will not resume North-South dialogue until the Team Spirit exercise has ended.

The United States informed our government that Kang Sok-chu, North Korean vice foreign minister, conveyed the North Korean position to Senator Smith and his entourage when they visited North Korea for two days beginning 19 December.

A government official said that North Korea told Senator Smith and his entourage that it will suspend North-South dialogue as long as Team Spirit exercises are conducted. The official also mentioned that North Korea indicated North-South mutual inspection is unlikely in the near future.

Kim Yong-sam To Pursue Nuclear Inspection Issue

SK2812034592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam said Monday his government will raise the issue of the simultaneous inspection of nuclear facilities by South and North Korea in the United Nations Security Council.

Kim said he will take the U.N. action on the issue in addition to his efforts to tackle the problem with the four nations surrounding the Korean peninsula—Japan, the United States, Russia and China.

Speaking at a breakfast hosted by the Christian Council of Korea, Kim said that in order to carry out unification of the country within this century, South and North Korea should first establish mutual trust. And unless the proposed simultaneous inspections of nuclear facilities are realized, the two Koreas could not begin to trust each other, he said.

Since North Korea continues to refuse to accept simultaneous inspections, they have to be carried out even if it needs the influence of the U.N. Security Council, he said.

Cabinet Approves Kim's Transition Team Plan

SK2412091892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0737 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam won cabinet approval Thursday to form a transition team, and the team will start work on Monday. The cabinet approved a decree allowing the transition team to operate for six months and giving the president-elect the power to appoint the 15 or so members of the team. Kim, whose inauguration is scheduled for February, will presumably name his team over the weekend.

The team, which political sources say is likely to be headed by former Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, will help Kim form a cabinet and draft administrative reforms. It will have offices in the Kwanhun-tong building, which was the headquarters of President Chon Tu-hwan's Democratic Justice Party.

Kim has said that no one on the transition team will be named to his cabinet.

Kim will name his prime minister and the head of the presidential secretariat by early February at the recommendation of the transition team, and then discuss his cabinet lineup with the two.

The sources said that Kim would also form an advisory council, which is to be christened "the New Korea Committee," of 50-odd experts to map out the direction of government restructuring and government policies.

Reform and corruption prevention committees might be set up under the transition team to work on fulfilling Kim's campaign pledges.

A source to the president-elect said that Kim had hoped to call it the regime or government transition team, but that he had opted for the presidency transition team out of consideration for the government's position. He said that it signified Kim's firm will to create a government totally different from No's.

A ceremony to dissolve his campaign committee was held at party headquarters in Yoido early in the morning. Kim praised the staff, saying that they were the protagonists in winning the presidential election and urging them to play a major role in creating a "new Korea" with a sense of pride and responsibility.

After the ceremony, Kim visited the Tongnimmun police station in western Seoul to encourage the policemen there. He asked them to exert all their efforts to keep the peace during the year-end season, and thanked them for protecting the life and property of citizens in the neighborhood.

The president-elect then moved to an old people's home in nearby Kugi-tong to console the residents. Kim promised them he would build as many as homes as possible for the aged and the homeless, expressing remorse that filial piety appeared to be on the wane in Korean society. He then visited angel house for the disabled in Kusan-tong in Northwestern Seoul and had lunch with some 50 handicapped children there.

Late Wednesday, Kim invited all reporters assigned to cover the DLP to a year-end dinner party and thanked them for their coverage of him during the campaign. He said that the most important problem these days was the economy, adding that he would pour all his efforts in tackling the issue. He showed dissatisfaction with news reports on the transition team, saying that it was unrelated to the cabinet lineup.

Meanwhile, Yi Ki-taek, chairman of the Democratic Party [DP], said Thursday that it was better to move up a party convention slated for March to February.

He said that he would form a preparatory committee for the convention in early January and launch a subcommittee for rewriting the party charter to reshape the party leadership and structure.

At his first press conference after the election, Yi said that the DP would sustain the current system until the party convention, indicating that he hoped to opt for a unitary leadership. He called on Kim Yong-sam to make an official appology for accusing DP presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung of being sympathetic to communism during the campaign. Yi said that if Kim didn't apologize, he would be implicitly accusing the 8 million people who had voted for the DP candidate of being sympathetic to communism and set relations between the ruling and opposition parties on a bumpy road.

On the top Pusan officials' meeting, which ignited a tongue war between the government and the United People's Party [UPP] before the electon, he said that if equilibrium was lost in probing the incident, the DP would consider convening the National Assembly judiciary committee and setting up a joint investigation team with the UPP. He said amendment of the election law should be based on the problems revealed during the election.

Kim To Form Team 30 Dec

SK2612073892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0636 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 26 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam will form his transition team Wednesday [30 December] and it will start work Jan. 4, Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] sources said Saturday.

Kim has decided to name Chong Won-sik, a former prime minister and his campaign manager, to head the team and to select all 15 members from the Democratic Liberal Party, they said.

The team will hold its first meeting Jan. 4 to discuss details of its activities and decide on a timetable. It will also take up the question of forming a presidential advisory board, tentatively named "New Korea Committee," of 50 prominent figures from various fields, the sources said.

The transition team is expected to recommend early in February names for the posts of prime minister, head of the Agency for National Security Planning and chief presidential secretary, who in turn will help Kim form his cabinet, the sources said.

Kim plans to form two committees for reform of the electoral system, in the National Assembly and in the government, to look into the possibility of having more than one representative from each constituency.

The reforms would be undertaken as soon as Kim is inaugurated on Feb. 25 to fulfill a campaign pledge. The government's special committee will be placed under the prime minister.

One of Kim's aides said Saturday that the president-elect felt strongly the need to erase the regionalism that was prominent in the presidential election. To help prevent prevalence of regionalism in the next parliamentary election, Kim has instructed the DLP to make further studies on the possibility of enlarging electoral districts.

The DLP had considered dividing the nation into 36 districts and electing six to nine representatives from each with the exception of Cheju Island, which would have only three. The DLP is said to be ready to consider any proposal that increases the number of representatives from the current one per district. If opposition parties reject the DLP's idea, it could go along with two to five representatives to a district, the aide said.

Earlier Saturday, Kim met with Chong Se-yong, chairman of the Hyundai Business Group, and expressed his regret over the group's participation in politics. He urged Chong to lead his group back to business to do its share in national efforts to rebuild Korea.

In the meeting, Chong pleaded with the president-elect to show leniency for more than 380 Hyundai employees who were arrested or are being sought by the authorities on suspicion of violating the election law. Kim showed "a negative response" to the plea and asked: "Is it possible for those politically polluted employees to contribute for the good of business if they are allowed to return to their companies?"

In another development, the Democratic Party [DP] again demanded clarification and an apology from Kim for questioning "the ideological color" of DP presidential candidate Kim Tae-chung during the campaign. A meeting of senior party officials, chaired by president Yi Ki-taek, asked Kim whether he still thought Kim Tae-chung and the Democratic Party were soft on communism. If Kim had made the charge as part of a strategy to win votes, he should apologize, the officials said.

Kim To Disband Private Political Support Groups

SK2412055892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0509 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 24 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam, disbanding his campaign headquarters, said Thursday he would scrap the Democratic Alpine Club and other non-party political support groups.

"We should tie the people's minds into one and create a new Korea for national reconciliation, economic recovery and peaceful reunification," Kim told a disbanding ceremony.

The Democratic Alpine Club, headed by Rep. Choe Hyong-u, was to be dissolved the same day, and the Central Youth Federation, headed by Rep. Kim Tok-yong, on Dec. 29.

Nasabon, the headquarters of Practising Patriotism, a private support group for Kim headed by Choe Hyong-u, was disbanded Tuesday.

The Democratic Alpine Club was founded in the early 1980s, when Kim was barred from politics by the military, and it led the democratic movement during the Chon Tu-hwan presidency.

Kim's 'New Korea Committee' To Study Reforms

SK2512033792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0217 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 25 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam is to set up a Democratic Liberal Party working group to map out a set of reforms.

The "New Korea Committee" will comprise upward of 50 reformists from many walks of life, including professors, journalists and businessmen. It will be set in motion at the same time as the transition team, formation of which was approved by the cabinet Thursday.

"An organization separate from the transition committee will be formed to map out plans to renovate administration, prevent corruption, reform personnel management and dispel regionalism," a close aide to Kim said.

The committee will have subcommittees by area and will operate only until the inauguration on Feb. 25.

"The New Korea Committee will first evaluate the incumbent administration's budgetary execution and personnel policies, based on which it will prepare various reform programs," the aide said.

Kim regards his administration and the incumbent administration as separate, he said. "This doesn't mean he designates the new government as the Seventh Republic but would respect a decision to be made by the New Korea Committee," he said.

The aide said Kim was determined to put into action all the reforms prepared by the committee within a year of his inauguration. Urgent administrative reforms such as government reorganization and anti-corruption plans would be enforced as soon as Kim became president, he said.

Kim Proposes Committee Continue

SK2812090592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0740 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam has decided to keep the proposed New Korea Committee functioning throughout his term in office, and not close it as a temporary advisory body as he had first planned, one of his aides said Monday.

Kim will form the committee in early January under the law that permits the formation of a presidential transition team, the aide said, requesting anonymity.

The committee will be made a permanent presidential advisory body through legislation following his inauguration as president on Feb. 25, the aide said.

In addition to advising the president on reforms for national policies, the aide said, the committee will keep a tab on Kim's will to reform national policies.

Kim was expected to eliminate the older generation and conservatives from consideration as committee members, he said. The committee will include members of opposition parties as well as dissident leaders such as attorney Yi Ton-myong, he said.

Kim planned to bring some members of the committee into his cabinet so that they could carry out policies worked out by the committee, he said. The New Korea Committee, in short, will be the main force in the president's efforts to forge a New Korea.

Kim will also stress the need for a spiritual revolution and rearmament through policies formulated by the committee.

One of the first projects would be to undertake a complete reinvestigation of the 1949 assassination of Kim Ku, an independence fighter and political leader, during the government of president Syngman Rhee, the aide said.

President-Elect To Ease Controls on Business

SK2612070192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0624 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 26 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam told business leaders Saturday his government would drastically reduce controls and ensure maximum independence of their operations.

"The foremost thing I shall do after my inauguration is to take steps to resuscitate the economy. I will do all I can to this end," he told the heads of major economic organizations.

The government alone was unable to engineer another economic leap forward, Kim said. "Industrial companies and people should positively join me. And industrial companies should make their own efforts, such as eradicating waste and ineffectiveness," he said.

Small- and medium-sized companies should play a decisive role in economic development, the president-elect said, so his government would do its utmost to rejuvenate small businesses and they should try to build up their competitiveness on their own.

He would make policy consistency the bottom line of his economic policies as it was most important in economic policies to maintain consistency, he said.

The economic leaders meeting Kim at his party office were Yu Chang-sun, chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries; Kim Sang-ha, president of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Pak Yong-hak, president of the Korea Foreign Trade Association; Pak Sang-kyu, president of the Korea Federation of Small Industries; and Yi Tong-chan, president of the Korea Employers Federation.

Later in the day, Kim met with Kim Song-tae, president of the Academy of Art, and other artists at his office. Kim called for positive support by cultural and artistic circles for the creation of a new Korea. Kim said he would positively support artists and would pay due attention to improving the treatment of writers and artists.

Among those meeting Kim were Chong Han-sok, president of the federation of artistic and cultural organizations of Korea; Cho Kyong-hui, president of the Seoul art center; and Kwak Chong-won, chairman of the Korean Ethics Committee of Public Performance.

UPP Regroups To Become 'Policy Party'

SK2412035592 Seoul in English 24 Dec 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Pak Sung-ryong]

[Text] Kyongju, Kyongsangpuk-to—The lawmakers of the United People's Party [UPP], now staggering in shock from the defeat in the presidential election, have resolved to move ahead by developing the party as the main locomotive for pulling the nation's economy forward.

In a caucus of the party in this provincial town, they recognized the defeat. However, they highlighted the fact that party standard-bearer Chong Chu-yong garnered about four million votes despite all kinds of suppression by the administration.

They resolved to overhaul the party to make it really strong in order to lead national development both in terms of politics and the economy in unity around party leader Chong Chu-yong.

They said in the resolution, adopted at the meeting, that they would exert efforts to introduce the parliamentary cabinet system. They will also make the party really a policy party, producing alternatives to the administration, departing from opposing whatever the government does for the sake of opposition as past opposition parties have done.

Before adopting the resolution, the lawmakers expressed their opinions regarding the outcome of the presidential elections and the future course of the party.

Rep. Pak Chol-on said that the commanding system of the party should be changed so the party is run by party charters instead of personal leadership.

He said at present there are too many party leaders. The commanding system should be made simple and clear, trimming down less important posts in the high ranks in the party organization.

The party should also seek an alliance with the opposition Democratic Party in its floor strategy and policy matters.

The party should pay special attention to producing constructive policies to impress the people so that it can be trusted as a party of policy instead of a party of political leaders hell-bent on coming to power.

Then he called on party leader Chong to keep his promise to hand 200 billion won to the party.

Rep. Kim Tong-kil, who was the chairman of the campaign committee, argued that he does not think of defeat in the election as a failure. It was only a kind of ordeal, he said.

Rep. Yi Cha-hon said what is needed now is party unity. "If we are united, we can have the chance to sway the House operation by our casting vote."

Rep. Kim Yong-hwan said the party should accept the outcome of the presidential election. But, he said, the neutral cabinet lost its impartiality in the management of the elections. This should be taken issue with at the National Assembly.

Then, he went on to say that the party should take the lead to drum up public opinion in favor of the parliamentary system, claiming that a national consensus has already been formed.

Rep. Yi Chong-chan, who joined the Chong's camp after pulling out of the presidential race, took part in the caucus. It is learned that he will work for the development of the party even with the status of plain party member. He was given co-leader status on joining the Chong camp.

As to the donation of 200 billion won to the party, Chong said he would keep the promise. However, he could not make the donation in a lump sum because it would be difficult to realize his stock holdings.

He is to hold a press conference on Monday.

Yim Su-kyong Holds News Conference After Release

SK2512015192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0112 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 25 (YONHAP)—Yim Su-kyong, an illegal visitor to North Korea who was paroled Thursday, said Thursday she had undergone "much confusion" in prison.

In a midnight press conference upon return to her Seoul home, Yim said history would judge her action. "But, as there were great changes at home and abroad since then, it is true I myself experienced much confusion in prison. I am going to learn things as I would confront them," she said.

Yim who was imprisoned upon her return to the South after she attended the Pyongyang world youth festival in July 1989, said solitariness was the most difficult for her to endure in her prison days. "People say things of the past are all beautiful. But, I think this doesn't apply to prison life. One gain, however, was that I read about 1,200 books during my three years there," she said.

Asked what she thought of the recent election outcome, Yim said that though she had no voting right she was sorry the man she supported failed to get elected. She added, however, that she expects much from a new government since one of the politicians whom she said she respected most until the merger of three parties in early 1990 was elected.

On her future plan, Yim said she would go back to school in the spring semester. "But, I would go wherever I am needed. I have a debt to pay back," she said.

Miss Yim who was set free at Chongju prison at 5 P.M. Thursday reached her Seoul home at Pyongchang-dong by taxi around 10 P.M. After a tearful reunion with her families, she met the press who numbered about 50 including some foreign correspondents. She then had her Christmas Eve dinner with her family, soon after which she, accompanied by families and some friends, drove to the Myong-dong cathedral to attend a Christmas mass.

Near her home were about 50 activist Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] students who were singing militant songs, carrying a placard that read "We missed you, delegate Yim Su-kyong, flower of unification."

Seoul Eases Restrictions on Foreign Investors

SK2812112392 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 27 Dec 92 p 7

[Text] Foreign investors investing in small- and medium-sized Korean businesses and wholesale businesses will not be subject to the government's approval but will only be required to report their intentions. This policy begins next March.

Accordingly, of all businesses allowing foreigners' free investments, only 70 businesses, including general trade business, retail business and tourist hotel business, are now subject to the approval of relevant authorities.

The ultra-modern service area among foreign investment businesses will also qualify for tax reductions and exemptions. If a foreign business invests funds for business' operations and not for facilities, it will also receive tax reduction and exemption benefits.

On 26 December, the Finance Ministry finalized the revised enforcement law on foreign currency inducement in a bid to attract foreign investments and has decided to put it into effect beginning next March after going through necessary procedural steps including legislation and official announcements.

Under the revised law, the foreign invested companies in which the share of the foreign investment is less than 50 percent, irrespective of the amount of investment, should report the foreign investment to the appropriate authorities 20 days before making the investment, rather than 30 days in accordance with current law. Under the revised law, the large-scale businesses with an investment of $10 million or more need not refer their investment plan to the Economic Planning Board for its review, thus simplifying the procedure for foreign investment approval.

When a foreign investor obtains stocks of other businesses, he is only required to report it if his foreign investment rate is less than 20 percent. This rate, however, will be expanded to 50 percent under the revised law.

Controversy Over Rediscount Rate Resurfaces

SK2412063792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 24 Dec 92 p 8

[By business editor Chong Pong-uk]

[Text] Barely one week after Kim Yong-sam was elected as the next president, developments indicated that the government's economic policymakers, led by Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu, and a group of elite advisers working for Kim, are in conflict over the subject of powering the rediscount rate, the same issue which caused a dispute between the Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Korea [BOK] a month ago.

Developments in this direction came when the majority Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] led by Kim asked the government to cut the rediscount rate in a meeting held Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Hwang In-song, chief policymaker of the party So Sang-mok, policy coordinator of the party; Pak Chae-yun, economic adviser to Kim; Han Ni-hon, economic aide to Kim; Han Kap-su, deputy minister of economic planning; Kang Pong-kyun, assistant minister of economic planning; and Chang Song-u, head of the Economic Planning Bureau at the Economic Planning Board.

The party's actions were expected since it promised during the presidential election campaign to lower bank interest rates to single-digit levels in the two years.

A cut in the rediscount rate is essential to lowering bank interest rates as it is the rate of interest charged to banks when they borrow money from the central bank.

The party's request is one of the steps it is reportedly planning in its efforts to revive the sagging economy, as evidenced by a meager 3.1 percent GNP growth in the third quarter of the year.

In fact, the focal point of dispute between the current and future policymakers originates from their views on the circumstances facing the Korean economy.

The Bank of Korea, backed by the Economic Planning Board, insists that the Korean economy is returning to the right track, removing "bubbles" caused by a spending spree over the past two or three years.

The central bank says that an imbalance in the Korean economy is being eased as evidenced by the low inflation rate and the shrinking deficit on the current account.

The current account deficit decreased from $8.73 billion last year to $4.82 billion in the first 10 months of the year and the annual inflation rate, as measured by consumer prices, dropped from nearly 10 percent in the last two years to below five percent.

The elites in the DLP, however, think that economic activity is shrinking too dramatically, although they acknowledge the need for low inflation rates.

They think lower interest rates are essential to spurring facility investments, the same view held by business circles.

Sluggish fixed investments were among the factors responsible for the low economic growth in the third quarter. Construction and facility investments suffered setbacks of 3.6 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.

Instead of lowering interest rates, the government plans to supply more money to businesses next year to help them increase facility investments, while lifting restrictions on construction.

The Ministry of Finance and the Bank of Korea have been engaged in a tug-of-war in recent months over the same issue, the matter of lowering bank interest rates.

The ministry asked the central bank to cut the rediscount rate by 0.5-1 percentage point from the present seven percent, but the central bank rejected the request.

Bank of Korea Gov. Cho Sun, who has served as deputy prime minister in charge of economic affairs, is known to be a conservative economist from the days when he was teaching at Seoul National University.

In this era of democratic reform, the elites working for President-elect Kim have to confront the BOK governor as long as he insists on the independence of the central bank and his months-old position on monetary management.

He returns home today from a meeting of the Wisemen Council held in Washington, D.C. last Sunday and Monday.

Government To Increase Economic Growth 6-7%

SK2812102192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0932 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 28 (YONHAP)—The government has made plans to improve economic growth to 6-7 percent next year from a probable 5 percent this year by expanding facility investment and holding inflation under 5 percent.

Deputy Premier Choe Kak-kyu, reporting economic plans for 1993 to President No Tae-u, said Monday that the current account deficit would be below 3 billion U.S. dollars and total money supply (MS) growth would stop at 13-17 percent.

Second-phase deregulation of interest rates will be implemented in the first half of next year, affecting loan rates of commercial banks. Rates on monetary bonds and the yield on the repurchase agreements (RPS) are to be liberalized under the plan.

The ceiling on foreign currency loans will be lifted to encourage facility investment and tax benefits will expand to all machinery manufacturers.

The "self-financing" efforts by the large business conglomerates will loosen to 100-200 percent of new investment from the present 100-600 percent. Under the current credit regulations, conglomerates should accumulate a maximum 600 percent of the funds needed for new projects through the disposal of their stocks or real estate.

The government will enlarge loans for the purchase of domestically-produced machinery, factory automation and facility expansion of export companies.

It will seek to induce a single-digit wage hike in industry, a level of productivity growth based on the gross national product to stabilize the pay increase. Income hikes for employees of state-invested institutes and corporations, monopolies, banks and high-wage sectors will be held under 3 percent.

The government would reform, and redefine the roles of, the government's economic agencies to minimize their powers to regulate economic activities in an effort to maximize the creativity and autonomy of private businesses, Choe said.

The government will expand loans on credit to 2 trillion won next year from 500 billion won this year for companies without enough security.

Compulsory lending to small- and medium-sized firms by commercial banks will be inspected on a mid-month balance basis and corporate or income taxes levied on the firms will be cut 20-40 percent for two years.

The Bank of Korea will rediscount 20 percent of trade bills approved and bought by commercial banks until the first half of next year and the credit guarantee ceiling for each export company will rise to 2.5 billion won from 2 billion won.

To cope with a heavy inflow of foreign money, the government will expand deferred-payment exports, prod businesses to make invest abroad, loosen investment restrictions on foreign stocks and enlarge foreign currency lending.

About 7 billion dollars are expected to arrive in Korea next year, up 3 billion dollars from this year due to liberalization of the financial market.

The quota for construction of private homes will be abrogated in January and the limit on commercial buildings will be lifted except for recreational facilities in the capital area. Some 500,000-600,000 houses will be built next year, checks on land speculation be continued and rationalization of taxation on real estate will be expanded. The government will raise the ceiling on land ownership to 20 hectares from the present 3 hectares for farmers tilling land in designated agricultural promotion areas.

To induce foreign capial, regulations on the purchase of land by foreign companies will be mollified and protection of their property rights will be stepped up.

No told economy-related ministers that Korea should enter the ranks of the advanced countries by pushing policies to enhance international competitivity consistently. The stabilization of wages and interest rates based on price stability was important to prevent total weakening of the competitive power by all industries, No said. No said that Korea should foster industrial competitivity against external forces regardless of who led the country, urging people to make efforts to check the price and wage hikes.

On the relationship between the Hyundai group and the United People's Party during the presidential election, No said that decisive measures ought to be mapped out to bar businesses from entering politics and such "malpractice" should not occur again.

Burma

Tighter Security Measures Ordered for Meeting

BK2412081892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Excerpt] The fifth work coordination meeting of the Management Committee for Convening the National Convention [MCCNC] was held at 1300 today in the Union Hall at Kyaikkasan grounds. It was attended by Brigadier General Tin Aye, defense services inspector general and chairman of the MCCNC; Brig. Gen. Tha Htay, director of supply and transport of the Ministry of Defense and vice chairman; U Hlaing Win, deputy minister of mines and vice chairman; MCCNC committee members; and chairmen, secretaries, and members of other supportive subcommittees.

Firstly, Brig. Gen. Tin Htay delivered an opening address. He explained during the period between the fourth and the fifth meeting, the National Convention Convening Commission chairman and responsible personnel inspected preparatory works being carried out by the various subcommittees and gave necessary instructions. He noted most of the work has been accomplished by the various subcommittees and reminded those present that since the National Convention is getting nearer there is more work to be done. He said the subcommittees need to work more diligently and with goodwill and urged them to fulfill their original objectives. He reiterated the need for security awareness at all times since the National Convention is drawing near. He also called for tighter security measures to prevent any subversive attacks by underground insurgents and people who do not have a clear view of the National Convention who will try to obstruct the National Convention in many ways and forms. He finally urged cooperation and assistance from ministries concerned to the subcommittees for greater achievement and improvement with the minimum of waste. [passage omitted]

NCGUB Calls 'Non-cooperation' Campaign

BK2612010492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0805 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Excerpt] BANGKOK, Dec 25 (AFP)—Burma's jungle-based dissident government has called for a nationwide campaign of non-cooperation with the country's ruling junta to begin on New Year's Day.

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) issued the call in a statement released here Friday as Rangoon was making final preparations for a crucial constitutional convention due to begin January 9. The NCGUB, is made up of politicians from Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), which swept polls in May 1990. The junta ignored the election result, saying instead that a new constitution must first be drafted and enacted before any handover of power to civilians could be considered.

The junta's forthcoming national convention "is a critical tactic in its systematic and blatant attempt to repudiate the will of the people as expressed in the general elections," the NCGUB said.

The dissident government urged "all of the nationalities, that is all of the people of Burma, to launch a campaign of non-cooperation and non-participation, starting from the beginning of the year 1993."

"The national convention is simply a manoeuvre by the (junta) to realize its earnest hope to cling to power while attaining a semblance of legitimacy in the eyes of the world," the statement said.

Earlier this year the junta decreed that the convention would enshrine a "leading role" for the military in any new constitution.

The NCGUB is based at the Manerplaw headquarters of ethnic minority Karen guerrillas in southeastern Burma near the border with Thailand. [passage omitted]

Tin U Warns of 'Subversive Influences'

BK2612143492 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Major General Tin U, secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, accompanied by Labor Minister Major General Aye Thaung and responsible officials, inspected Udo-Chaungthongywa road construction project in Taikkyi Township today at 0900. [passage omitted]

Later, Maj. Gen. Tin U held a meeting with departmental authorities at the office for road construction near Yanonnaing village and discussed matters related to road construction. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the meeting, Maj. Gen. Tin U explained political affairs of the state. He noted the significance of the National Convention, which will open on 9 January 1993 to lay down the basic principles for the state constitution. He explained that the people and the public service personnel are to render assistance in ensuring that there is no obstruction and hindrance to the National Convention.

He said as the date of the National Convention approaches, it is important to be aware of reports being disseminated internally and externally which are aimed at undermining the convention. He said that these subversive influences must be removed. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Singapore

Paper Views Premier Goh's By-Election Victory

BK2512120692 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 22 Dec 92 p 28

[Editorial: "PM Goh Comes Into His Own"]

[Text] Apart from the call to duty aimed at the young, a vote for Singapore's future, or staking out the moral high ground—all proper for vigorous campaigning—Mr Goh Chok Tong's most vivid line in his victory remarks on Saturday night was that when he lands a solid punch, he knows it. To have retained Marine Parade GRC [Group Representative Constituency] with 73 percent of the vote in an unseasonal by-election in which, by many accounts, the Singapore Democratic Party [SDP] ran the ruling party close at the hustings, was a knockdown. But this is not where the imagery bites; when it was time to be serious, it was not hard for voters to see that the SDP had been playing to the gallery. Political theatre has been a form of release since the days of the ancient Greeks. The clear-cut outcome was not in doubt. To say that Mr Goh struck a blow for stability would be more apt. Indeed this much the country needed as a confluence of events—illness leading to some uncertainty in the Cabinet, a slowdown in Singapore's prime markets, gathering storms in the region—brought uncertainty, if not pessimism, about the short-term.

Where the punch really landed was the unflattering perception of a diffident Goh Chok Tong as prime minister. He has grown in confidence and stature, a fact not often given due consideration in assessing the political elite shaped over long years by one remarkable man. Two years after succeeding Mr Lee Kuan Yew and a year after being dented by a general election, Marine Parade 1992 would go down as a personal watershed. It had turned unintendedly into a referendum on the man, his policies, and his style. The clear win will strengthen his hand in pursuing hard policies of the type he signalled that night when he alluded to "some big problems ahead of us in the years to come." There is the proposed consumption tax. There is the need to build an external economy, which would take all manner of incentives and altering the mental conditioning of an essentially managerial class. There is also the clear need to keep down costs of all sorts. His confidence was already showing early on Sunday morning when he corrected whatever wrong signals Mr Lee might have sent over the matter of Dr Tony Tan's return to Cabinet. He would effect the return if and when he felt the country needed Dr Tan's services. It was a Mr Goh as the nation has not seen him before—head of government and party, and acting the part. A government with a sure hand at the helm has to be a better government.

Another gain of Saturday's result is the impetus it gave to political regeneration. Commodore (Res) Teo Chee Hean, the new man in the PAP [People's Action Party] slate, has been made a minister of state as understudy to Dr Richard Hu in Finance and Mr Mah Bow Tan (Communications). He is 37, the latest of a roll call of people summoned to duty who would take Singapore well into the next century. Political renewal is laborious and easily scuttled by mismatch and the wrong public perception, so the Marine Parade result is no small help. Because the strain of carrying Singapore is heavy on the 15-strong Cabinet, and in spite of by-elections being something a sitting government would avoid, one would not discount the possibility of more "initiations" for handpicked people before the present parliament expires in 1996.

So, what of the opposition? Mr J.B. Jeyaretnam must know he has suffered loss of credibility with the Workers' Party's absence in a by-election called partly to give him a chance to contest. As for the SDP's reading that it now has claim to being the alternative party for Singaporeans, judgment awaits its showing in future polls. For now, what Marine Parade GRC voters have indicated is that there is need for a credible opposition. That takes well thought-out policies, sensible, honest people, and a strong party organisation. Voters are discerning, as Marine Parade showed by delivering 73 percent to the PAP when straw polls had suggested a stronger opposition showing. Histrionics out, substance in. Always.

Deputy Premier Lee Appointed Economic Adviser

BK2812133292 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has been charged with the responsibility of advising the Prime Minister on economic matters since Dec 7.

A Government gazette on Thursday said that Brigadier-General [BG] (Res) Lee would also discharge any other duties assigned to him by Mr Goh Chok Tong.

Under Article 30 of the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore, the Prime Minister may charge any minister with the responsibility for any department or subject.

BG Lee gave up his portfolio as Trade and Industry Minister to Mr S. Dhanabalan on Dec 5. However, he remains Deputy Prime Minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

He is now undergoing chemotherapy for cancer of the lymphatic system.

Cambodia

SNC Signs Three Aid Agreements With France

BK2412103892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] A ceremony was held at Damnak Chan Palace on 19 December to sign three agreements on the Republic of France's financial aid of 57.4 million francs to Cambodia.

The three documents signed between the French Government and the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia are on financial aid for economic development, food supply aid, and financial aid for the development of rubber plantations in Cambodia.

The documents were signed by (Bush Yalrev), representative of the French Government, who arrived recently in Cambodia; Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the

State of Cambodia [SOC] and SNC member from the SOC faction; and Ieng Muli, SNC member from Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF].

French Ambassador to Cambodia Phillipe Coste and members of the SNC Secretariat from the SOC, FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and KPNLF were also present.

Akashi Urged To Correctly Execute Paris Accord

BK2412035692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Dec 92

["Letter from His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party and member of the Supreme National Council, asking H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN Secretary General, to correctly, meticulously, and fully implement the Paris 23 October 1991 accord"—dated 21 December; read by announcer]

[Text] Your excellency: I would like to inform you that Prince Norodom Sihanouk's health has gradually improved but it is not sturdy yet. The prince needs to have a rest and attentive medical treatment and follow-up. In any case, he should not be disturbed and should not overwork as this could worsen his health. The request that the prince should quickly return to Phnom Penh is not good because when he is in Phnom Penh, he will have to do a lot of work, think over numerous issues, and meet with many people.

I have already made this request to you before. Now, I, however, would like to again ask you to maintain your consistent position of correctly and fully implementating the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, specifically the following points:

1. The total withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia and their nonreturn under the verification and control of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

2. UNTAC should directly and effectively run the five ministries which will affect general elections to be held freely and fairly.

3. The demobilization and disarmament of all the Cambodian troops.

4. The setting up of a mixed [word indistinct]

5. UNTAC and the SNC should assume all power and control and redefine and guarantee Cambodia's territorial integrity.

6. The Cambodian people living in Kampuchea Kraom should be allowed to vote and overseas Cambodians should be permitted to vote abroad as well. The 1993 elections should be absolutely held in a free and fair manner.

7. UNTAC's permission for a significant number of heavily or lightly armed Vietnamese troops to stay in Cambodia—those troops are trying to obtain the right to vote in the future elections—does not ensure a safe, neutral, and fair atmosphere for the elections.

8. Permitting two Cambodian parties to rearm themselves, to marshal forces themselves, and to fight each other, constitutes a move toward the infinite. The Cambodian people, longing for peace and happiness, will endure the greatest sufferings.

In light of the serious situation, I would like to restate that you should take concrete and stringent measures.

Your Excellency: I would like to [words indistinct] inform you that if you more speedily participate in meticulously and energetically implementing the Paris accord, you will certainly gain support from the entire Cambodian people, who consider Cambodia's interests above all. The people's determination is to regain peace.

Your Excellency, please, accept my highest regards.
[Dated] Beijing, 21 December 1992.
[Signed] Son Sann, BLDP chairman and SNC member.

Efforts Against SRV, SOC, UNTAC Urged

BK2412081392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Today, we would like to present the following special program:

1. Prince Norodom Sihanouk's 22 December 1992 statement on the issue of elections in Cambodia.

2. Prince Norodom Sihanouk's 13 December 1992 statement on the issue of the lack of a neutral political environment in Cambodia.

3. Prince Norodom Sihanouk's 14 December 1992 statement on the issue of Cambodia's territorial integrity.

4. Letter from His Excellency Son Sann, chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party and member of the Supreme National Council, asking UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] head Akashi to correctly, meticulously, and fully implement the Paris accord.

5. 20 December 1992 communique of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] on the issue of the UNTAC staff's encroaching on PDK-controlled areas.

6. NADK spokesman's 22 December 1992 statement on zoning PDK-controlled regions.

7. Report on the Vietnamese aggressors' and Phnom Penh puppets' further bullying of other political parties.

The above items demonstrate that the Cambodian nation and all Cambodian people inside and outside the country are unanimous in the fate of the nation and people at a time when old and new Vietnamese remain in Cambodia trampling on, occupying, and swallowing the country.

As for the Vietnamese puppets, they continue to show their true nature as traitors who sell the nation and as the cheap lackey of the Vietnamese, who are invading and occupying Cambodia.

For UNTAC leaders, they came to Cambodia not to implement the Paris accord but to trample on and turn the four-party accord into a one-party agreement under which only the Vietnamese and their puppets rule Cambodia.

This special program clearly shows all Cambodian people inside and outside the country, especially Cambodian soldiers, policemen, and officials forced by the Vietnamese aggressors and their lackey puppets to serve them, the uniform determination of the Cambodian nation and all Cambodian people. No further explanation is needed.

Through Prince Norodom Sihanouk's statements dated 13 and 14 December 1992 and his new statement dated 22 December 1992, H.E. Son Sann's 21 December 1992 letter to Mr. Akashi, the 20 December 1992 communique of the PDK and NADK, and unanimous views of Cambodians from all walks of life, one can judge who is wrong and who is right; who is good and who is bad; who is patriotic and who is traitorous; who is the aggressor and who has colluded with the aggressor, trampling on and destroying the Paris 23 October 1991 accord; who has held aloft the banner of defending the nation and the Paris accord; and who is demanding the implementation of the Paris accord?

The significance of the statements above sums up the situation in Cambodia, particularly the situation concerning the execution of the Paris accord at the end of 1992.

On the eve of 1993, the Cambodian nation and the entire Cambodian people inside and outside the country, as well as all compatriots forced by the Vietnamese and their lackey puppets to serve them, are invited to judge the situation in order to clearly distinguish those who are good from those who are bad, those who are right from those who are wrong, and those who are upholding the banner of implementing the accord from those who are refusing to effect but instead are trampling the accord.

So what should we further act on? And how should we join hands? The forces of the nation and people should motivate the people in rural and urban areas and inside and outside the country as well as the Cambodian soldiers, policemen, and officials to join forces to compel the Vietnamese aggressors, the Vietnamese traitorous lackey puppets, and the UNTAC leaders to genuinely and correctly implement the Paris 23 October 1991 accord.

The Cambodian nation and the entire Cambodian people will never allow the Vietnamese aggressors, the Vietnamese traitorous lackey puppets, and the UNTAC leaders to trample on, alter, and ruin the Paris 23 October 1991 accord. They will, at all costs, prevent them from turning the Paris 23 October 1991 accord into an agreement comprising only one party, the Vietnamese puppet party. The Cambodian nation and the entire Cambodian people are resolutely determined to join forces to struggle to consistently demand that the Vietnamese aggressors, the Vietnamese traitorous lackey puppets, and the UNTAC leaders fully implement every term of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord, especially the following provisions:

1. The SNC should be given its role. This is to enable the council to carry out its tasks as the sole legitimate organization and source of power in Cambodia during the transition.
2. UNTAC and the SNC should cooperate in verifying and controlling the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.
3. UNTAC and the SNC should jointly run the five ministries.
4. UNTAC and the SNC should jointly verify and control the dismantling of the four factional armies by 70 percent.

The implementation of these provisions is to establish a neutral and safe political environment, doing away with political terrorism, and fascism to create favorable conditions for holding free, democratic, correct, and fair elections. Only by so doing, can a genuine national assembly and a new genuine national government be established, and the Cambodian nation and people enjoy their right of self-determination, and Cambodia regain peace, independence, neutrality, and sovereignty.

Vigilance Against Khmer Rouge 'Tricks' Urged

BK2412095792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Article in recent issue of SANTEPHEAP: "Beware of the Old-Hand Murderers Using New Tricks"]

[Text] After signing the Paris agreement, not only have the Khmer Rouge failed to abide, but they have also committed gross and barbarous violations against the State of Cambodia [SOC] and UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces.

Clinging to its two unreasonable and abject conditions, this faction has always turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to the facts and explanations given by the UNTAC chief.

The establishment of Khieu Samphan's Cambodian National Union Party [CNUP], which was launched recently, should serve as a new lesson to be pondered by the Cambodian people and political analysts.

To the over three million Cambodians killed under the Pol Pot genocidal regime and those who have survived, this is regarded as the Khmer Rouge's new tactic to get out of the quagmire they find themselves in and join next year's elections. The Khmer Rouge are the only faction which has disrespected the agreement, and they are in the quagmire because of their obstinate stand. They have many designs and schemes which are tricky and quite difficult to detect.

Certainly, the Paris agreement gives all factions the right to set up political parties. Although this establishment is in line with the conditions established in the agreement and with UNTAC's regulations, one must not be misled by the new party of Mr. Khieu Samphan.

One should take a close look at the facts and clearly understand the background of this party which is that it actually belongs to the Khmer Rouge faction. In addition to Khieu Samphan and Son Sen, who used to be stained with people's blood and are accomplices of Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, eight other members of this new party are all drifters known among the Cambodian people as opportunists who used to live with the genocidal Pol Pot clique.

What implies the tricky nature of this party of cats-paws? It is the fact that the CNUP has set two conditions which are similar to the ones set by the Khmer Rouge faction in refusing to implement the agreement. This is the Khmer Rouge's attempt to make political and military gains while grossly violating the peace agreement. The Cambodian people have become even more worried seeing the true nature of this new trick.

The Cambodian people realize that being misled by this party would be tantamount to opening the doors and welcoming the genocidal regime back to power.

Lessons and experiences gained from the Khmer Rouge in the past more than two decades serve as a reminder for the people and old and new politicians in Cambodia to heighten their vigilance against the political schemes of the Khmer Rouge.

As a matter of fact, no one forgets that setting up a secret coalition government between the Khmer Rouge and the Khmer republic in April 1975, the formation of a tripartite coalition government in Kuala Lumpur in June 1982, and signing the Paris agreement are all within the framework of the Khmer Rouge's tactics, an evil means which has given this faction so many gains.

Now, again, Khieu Samphan has launched his old tricks in an attempt to realize his clique's final aim to regain power, using both political and military means.

The Cambodian people think that both the international community and UNTAC should take a thorough look before allowing this party to participate in the coming elections. Since this party belongs to the Democratic Kampuchea faction, which has refused to implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, it should not be given the right to take part in the elections. But if this genocidal clique is allowed to violate the agreement through this new means, it would be tantamount to giving more encouragement to the Khmer Rouge.

KR Official Reacts to Sihanouk Race Statement

BK2412092092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0910 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 24 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk has said he wants ethnic Cambodians, known as Khmers, from Vietnam to be allowed to vote in the U.N.-run elections next year, according to a statement seen Thursday.

He also stated firmly that non-Khmers—notably Vietnamese and Chinese—"remain foreigners, even if their parents, grandparents and ancestors were born in Cambodia."

Cambodians, however, have historically mixed with Chinese merchants who settled here as early as the 13th century, making a pure "Khmer" difficult to define, according to historians and Cambodia experts.

The issue of race in Cambodia has become a volatile one with nationalist factions such as the radical Khmer Rouge—who carried out an ethnic cleansing campaign during their years of power from 1975-1979—and the right-wing Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) fanning the flames of hatred with racist rhetoric.

A Khmer Rouge official told AFP the prince's statement proves the faction is correct in wanting to rid Cambodia of the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Vietnamese who have settled here in search of economic opportunity.

At least two dozen ethnic Vietnamese throughout the country have been murdered so far this year, most by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, according to the United Nations.

The Embassy of Vietnam issued a statement Thursday about the recent anti-Vietamese killings, calling them "barbarous acts ... openly provoking national hatred against Vietnam and seriously violating international conventions on human rights."

The bodies of three Vietnamese fishermen with their throats slit were found tied together and floating in the Mekong River last week, according to a U.N. spokesman.

It called for Cambodian authorities and the United Nations to find the culprits, bring them to justice and compel them to compensate the families.

Prince Sihanouk's statement said the Khmers born in Kampuchea Krom—now southern Vietnam—should be considered Cambodians.

"Even if the Khmers of Kampuchea Krom are considered Vietnamese nationals, these Khmers must, once coming to Cambodia, keep their rights as Cambodians citizens," the prince said.

KPNLF leader Son Sann and Khmer Rouge defense chief Son Sen are both from Kampuchea Krom. Under the present election law adopted by the four Cambodian factions over Khmer Rouge objection, neither are allowed to vote or run in the election because they and their parents were not born in present-day Cambodia.

Prince Sihanouk also asked the United Nations to allow overseas Cambodians to register to vote in foreign capitals such as New York, Paris and Canberra, where large concentrations of Cambodian refugees have settled.

"Cambodians, even if they have acquired the nationality of another country, must be considered citizens of Cambodia," the prince said.

U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi has said the United Nations does not have the money or inclination to set up registration in those cities.

Commentary Reacts to KR Warning About Zones

BK2612060292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Station commentary: "The Insolent Behavior of the Khmer Rouge" [KR]]

[Text] The Khmer Rouge group, the only faction that has not implemented the Paris agreement and that has violated the agreement, on Wednesday 23 December issued a statement warning the world about the so-called nonguarantee of security for those who enter Khmer Rouge-controlled zones without the so-called permission of the Khmer Rouge.

This is a new reaction opposing UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolution No. 792. It further clearly shows the stance of the Khmer Rouge side toward the United Nations. This is not the first time that the Khmer Rouge have deliberately opposed the UNSC memorandum calling on all Cambodian parties to ensure security for UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] personnel.

People still remember that when the UNSC issued Resolution No. 766, the Khmer Rouge mined two bridges on the border between Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom Provinces. And when the UNSC issued Resolution No. 792 dated 30 November 1992, the Khmer Rouge threatened poll registration teams and the registration process, and successively held UNTAC personnel hostage. On the fourth hostage- taking incident, they threatened to kill UNTAC officials.

This Khmer Rouge statement also shows the international community that the successive detention of UNTAC officials as hostages is not a collection of isolated acts but is in accordance with a general order; this is meticulously planned by Pol Pot himself.

The statement's wording, that security is not guaranteed, agrees with the Kratie Khmer Rouge commanders' threat to kill UNTAC officials while UNTAC officials were being held. Such behavior shows that the Khmer Rouge are not only savage and cruel toward the Cambodian people, they are also insolent toward the UNSC, the world's supreme body which the entire international community respects and abides by.

More seriously, the above Khmer Rouge warning is the most serious and direct threat to the lives of UNTAC military and civilian personnel from over 100 countries who are operating throughout the country in accordance with the mandate stated in the 23 October 1991 agreement. UNTAC personnel have been assured immunity to which Khieu Samphan and Son Sen have themselves agreed at the meeting of the Supreme National Council at Khemarin Palace in front of the prince head of state, Akashi, and the representatives of the five permanent UNSC members.

Furthermore, according to the Khmer Rouge communique on the categories of their territory, this would cover the entirety of Cambodia: there are liberated zones in which safety is guaranteed; semiliberated zones; and the zones in which their guerrillas operate with self-defense. Therefore, guests, including UNTAC, traveling in Cambodia should first ask the Khmer Rouge for permission; otherwise, they will be subject to Khmer Rouge attack.

This is not just a blatant violation of the various clauses in the agreement, but also an open terrorist act against humanity. Furthermore, this shameless Khmer Rouge communique also shows that they have violated Annex 2 of the Paris agreement which bans troop movement and territorial expansion. In other words, the annex requires that the signatory parties maintain the status quo politically and militarily. Everyone knows that through maps provided by all Cambodian parties to UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] and UNTAC, the Khmer Rouge faction controls no more than 10 percent of the forested and hilly areas while the State of Cambodia side controls over 85 percent of the territory.

The Khmer Rouge communique last Wednesday reminded our people of the dark era when the Angkor motherland was under the grip of the genocidal Khmer Rouge during which contact with the outside world was not allowed, as His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk noted in his work entitled Prisoner of the Khmer Rouge. This is an alarm to remind humanity, particularly human rights groups, to be aware of the danger of the Khmer Rouge's return through military means. When this happens, the most troubled and most terrifying past will certainly return to cover the motherland. Therefore, attention should be paid and measures taken against this Khmer Rouge communique. A lot of experience should be drawn from the Khmer Rouge's history.

Recently, following the Khmer Rouge capture of six UNTAC personnel in Kompong Thom, Mak Ben, Khmer Rouge representative in Phnom Penh, warned UNTAC not to reenter Khmer Rouge-controlled zones. However, nobody seemed to pay attention to this

warning until the Khmer Rouge again arrested UNTAC personnel three times in succession and threatened to even kill them before people were convinced that the Khmer Rouge will do what they say without any hesitation whatsoever. The Khmer Rouge are carrying out the orders of Pol Pot, their first brother, without any consideration for the UN Charter or any international law.

Furthermore, even in the first category of zones the Khmer Rouge say safety is ensured, the movement of UNTAC personnel and the small number of international organizations allowed to set up offices there, is limited. And now the Khmer Rouge have even banned movement outside their offices in Pailin.

The Cambodian people have never wanted to discard the Khmer Rouge from a political solution. However, endless efforts should not be made to keep and soothe the Khmer Rouge to the extent that the latter can do anything it wants at will and hold the peace plan hostage in order to constantly bargain, and even destroy, the UN peace plan.

Peacekeepers 'in Midst of' KR-Phnom Penh Battle

BK2412113292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 24 (AFP)—A team of 34 U.N. peacekeepers were spending Christmas Eve in the midst of a battle between Khmer Rouge [KR] and Phnom Penh government forces after their mine-resistant vehicle hit a mine and could not be repaired, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday.

The 34, including 27 Indonesians, four military observers of unknown nationalities and three interpreters, were obliged to stay the night in central Kompong Thom Province with the vehicle, called a "Wolf," spokesman Eric Falt said.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Phnom Penh government forces were fighting using AK-47's and rocket-propelled grenades a short distance away, he said.

Asked whether the area was considered Khmer Rouge controlled territory, where the peacekeepers have been told by the faction that their safety could not be guaranteed, Falt said: "It's an area where both (Khmer Rouge) and (Phnom Penh) forces were involved in some fighting."

The events began Wednesday, when two military observers and half of the Indonesians tried to return to the village of O'Sala, where 21 and then 46 U.N. peacekeepers were taken captive last week and forced to leave behind their four-wheel drive truck.

The team was going to "inquire about the status of the vehicle," Falt said, and to negotiate its return.

When they got near the village, they realized there was fighting going on and turned back, he said. On the road back, the Wolf vehicle hit a mine, which blew up a front tire. Since the team could not immediately repair it, they were forced to spend Wednesday night with the vehicle, Falt said.

Then on Thursday, two more military observers, interpreters and the rest of the Indonesians set out to try to repair or tow the injured Wolf away, which they could not do, Falt said.

A Wolf vehicle weighs about nine tonnes, and would have to be pulled out by a heavier truck the next morning, he said.

"Everyone is fine and looking forward to spending Christmas night there," Falt said.

33 UN Peacekeepers 'Bunkered Down' Under Fire

BK2612101692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 26 (AFP)—U.N. peacekeepers have come under fire from Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambodia and were spending nights in an underground bunker, a U.N. spokesman said Saturday.

The peacekeepers—26 Bangladeshis, one Australian signaller, three civilian police and three election workers—were bunkered down in Svay Leu about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of central Siem Reap, the site of the Angkor temple complex, spokesman Eric Berman said.

The area came under mortar fire Thursday afternoon and it continued through Saturday morning, Berman said.

No injuries were reported among U.N. personnel, but it was unclear whether any civilians had been injured or whether Phnom Penh forces had returned fire, he said.

"There's not an imminent threat of danger to life and limb," Berman said.

Elsewhere in central Cambodia, a team of peacekeepers checking on a four-wheel drive vehicle abandoned after 46 peacekeepers were taken captive by the Khmer Rouge last week went back to the village and found the vehicle to be a burned-out shell, a U.N. military source said.

It was not clear whether radio or other equipment had been removed from the truck, the source said.

The peacekeepers had been forced to spend the night Wednesday near the village after their mine-resistant "Wolf" vehicle hit a landmine and could not be repaired.

A second team was forced to spend Christmas Eve there Thursday when they were unable to fix it or tow it, and a third team returned to the Kompong Thom provincial capital with the Wolf on Friday after repairs were carried out, Berman said.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Phnom Penh government forces had been fighting using AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenades a short distance away from the disabled vehicle, he said.

Thai Readiness To Enforce KR Sanctions Lauded

BK2712101992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Station commentary: "An Important Contribution to the Cambodian Peace Process"]

[Text] The Royal Government of Thailand, which is a country importantly associated with the Cambodian problem and one of the 19 signatories to the Paris peace accord, made known to the United Nations on 23 December its willingness to enforce economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge [KR]. The Cambodian people, who are the Thai people's neighbors, are extremely pleased with and enthusiastically welcome the just decision adopted by the Royal Thai Government. The people consider the move a crucial contribution to the Cambodian peace process, which is currently frustrated by the Khmer Rouge's refusal to regroup troops, disarm, and allow UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff members to gain access to the regions they control.

Lately, the Polpotist gang has appeared to be more arrogant. They have intensified brutal violations against parties implementing the accord and captured UNTAC officials as their hostages, and they have even threatened to kill those hostages as well.

The Cambodian people are firmly confident and ardently hopeful that the position adopted by the Thai Government will have a significant impact on development of the situation in Cambodia.

As the Khmer Rouge continue to refuse to execute the peace accord they signed in Paris, the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the UN secretary general have entrusted the Thai Government with the task of conducting diplomatic approaches and negotiations with the stubborn group to coax it into cooperating with UNTAC and fulfilling its commitments.

Observers watching the situation in Cambodia and Southeast Asia have concluded that Thailand can use its influence to force the Khmer Rouge to become flexible. Moreover, although Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said during his recent visit to Vietnam that his country had only a limited ability to persuade the Khmer Rouge, diplomats believe that the effectiveness of enforcement of resolution 792 adopted by the UNSC on 30 November 1992 largely depends on the Thai position.

The Thai Government's announcement constitutes a contribution to preserving the Cambodian people's natural resources. It is widely known that over the past year the Khmer Rouge, in order to achieve their ambition of reclaiming power through military means, have without exception proceeded without taking into consideration the fate and future of the motherland. They have allowed precious gems, previously processed manually by people, to be exploited by hundreds of machines. This has not only affected the immature gems but has also muddied the Sangke River. Moreover, the indiscriminate felling of trees has also seriously affected the environment, which must be preserved not only for Cambodia but also for its neighbors.

In sum, the sublime position announced by the Thai Government on 23 December is in line with the long-term interests of the two countries, which have common land and maritime borders of several hundred kilometers. The Cambodian people would like to deeply thank the Thai Government and ardently hope Thailand will adopt the same position on the export of precious gems from the Pailin region in the future. Along with this, the close cooperation between UNTAC and Thailand in setting up checkpoints along the Thai-Cambodian border will certainly make the UNSC's resolution 792 more effective.

Indonesia

No Exchange of Fire With Rebels 'for Months'

BK1612134892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0931 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec. 16 (ANTARA)—The Indonesian Armed Forces (ABRI) confirmed here on Wednesday that there had been no exchange of fire for months between the military and the left-overs of the Security Disturbing Movement (GPK) members in East Timor as the GPK members have lost their offensive capability.

Most of Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] supporters have reintegrated themselves with the rest of the community, ABRI Spokesman Brigadier General Nurhadi Purwosaputro told ANTARA here on Wednesday.

A Fretilin leader in Sydney, Australia, Ramos Horta, said recently that 30 Indonesian soldiers had been killed by GPK members in East Timor in an ambush while the soldiers were on patrol in [name indistinct] in the same region, claimed to be the first attack since the capture of Fretilin leader Xanana Gusmao on November 20. Brig. Gen. Nurhadi said that Horta's statement was cheap propaganda.

Xanana Gusmao stated in his recent interview with a Portuguese television crew that Horta was now representing nobody.

We have checked many times and found no evidence of exchange of fire claimed by Horta, Nurhadi said.

Earthquakes Hit Maumere Area 24 Dec

BK2412155692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] The town of Maumere and areas around it were shaken again today by an earthquake measuring 4.6 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was at 6.8 degrees South, 122.62 degrees East and was 61 kilometers above sea level; it occured about 190 km northeast of Muamere, the capital of Sikka Regency, Flores, East Nusa Tenggara Province.

The head of the Meteorological Station in Maumere, M.B. Ruslan, told newsmen tonight that this follow-up quake occurred at 1245 Central Indonesian time, or 0445 GMT today, and had caused residents of Maumere and the areas around it to panic. Some scurried out of their houses. The tremor was also felt in Wayodi town.

Malaysia Provides Military Personnel

BK2612080092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0714 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Kupang (Flores, Indonesia), Dec 26 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has deployed 13 military personnel here to assist in efforts to rehabilitate the island following the recent earthquake.

Deputy chief of staff and personnel in the Defence Ministry, Brigadier General Hussein Mohamed Piah said that the personnel, from the Medical Corps and the Signals Squadron, would be here for a two-week stint which would be extended if the need arose.

He was speaking to reporters after presenting humanitarian aid worth rm [ringgit Malaysia] 250,000 (about US$99,000) to Colonel S.H.M. Lerrick, who represented the governor of East Nusa Tenggara, Friday. The food, medical supplies and camping equipment were pledged by Defence Minister Najib Razak recently.

Col. Lerrick said that in the incident on Dec 12, 2,080 people were killed, 2,010 were injured and 69 went missing. Some 27,000 houses, 200 schools, 300 houses of worship and 400 office buildings were destroyed. The assistance from Malaysia means a lot to us, said Col. Lerrick.

Brig. Gen. Hussein and the delegation comprising senior military officials were at the island for one day to observe relief work and to guage whatever assistance would be required.

According to Brig. Gen. Hussein who held discussions with Col. Lerrick, the island also required materials to repair roads and to rebuild houses.

A report will be submitted as soon as possible to the defence minister on further assistance to be extended, he added.

Minister Warns Against Embezzlement of Donations

BK2712054892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] The government will take stern action against Social Affairs Department officials who embezzle funds and other humanitarian assistance for Flores earthquake victims in East Nusatenggara. Social Affairs Minister Haryati Subadio said action will be taken against any of the department officials who are proven guilty of embezzling funds for earthquake victims.

Speaking after receiving more donations from the women's organization and the Postal and Tourism Department this morning, the social affairs minister said the department will directly monitor all the donations for the victims. Besides receiving donations from the other sectors, the minister received a donation of 354 million rupiah from the Postal and Tourism Department and a sum of 45 million rupiah from the Jakarta [word indistinct] women's organization.

According to Social Affairs Minister Haryati Subadio, the donations collected for the Flores earthquake victims during the post-disaster period now amount to 3.7 billion rupiah.

Earthquakes Rock Maemere Again 27 Dec

BK2712152892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] A tectonic earthquake measuring 5.2 on the Richter Scale again rocked Maumere and its surroundings at 0200 West Indonesian Time today [1800 GMT 26 December] and jolted residents from their sleep. The epicenter of the quake was estimated at about 150 km under the sea. (M.B. Ruslan), head of the Maumere Meteorological Station, said there was an earlier earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter Scale yesterday afternoon with an epicenter at about 32 km under the sea. He said there was no way to know when these recurring quakes would stop, but based on what had happened in Alor District last year, the quakes might continue to occur for about three months.

6.1 Earthquake Near Bali Reported 28 Dec

BK2812062092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] A tectonic earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale occurred early this morning at 0448 AM West Indonesia time [2048 GMT 27 December] near Den Pasar, Bali. A press statement released today by the Meteorological and Geophysics Board in Jakarta said the epicenter was located at longitude 6.7 degrees south and latitude 113.1 east, 735 km from the Java Sea or 100 km east of Surabaya.

No damages have been reported as of newstime.

Dili Bishop Comments on Xanana, E. Timor Issue

BK2612161292 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 7 Dec 92 pp 1, 16

["Excerpts" of special interview with Dili Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo by SUARA PEMBARUAN correspondent Expedito Ximenes at the Bishop's residence in Lecidere, Dili, on 6 December]

[Text] [SUARA PEMBARUAN] Did you know Xanana Gusmao very well?

[Belo] I did not know him.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] Did you come to know him after East Timor Province was integrated with Indonesia?

[Belo] Yes, I did. When I met him I told him to think seriously about the objective of his Security Disturbance Movement's (GPK) struggle. I told him that the GPK had no military strength and that he will never win despite his struggle. It was also difficult for the GPK to achieve its objective through a diplomatic settlement. I told him that it was not possible to make East Timor an autonomous district in the entire Nusantara region. At that time he (Xanana) replied, "I had been encouraged to give myself up." Well, that's it.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] What is your comment on Xanana's statement which he made in an interview with East Timor Governor Abilio that was aired by TVRI [Televisi Republik Indonesia]?

[Belo] I did not watch the television program, perhaps it would be more appropriate for you to ask those who were concerned with that matter.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] Would you like to comment on Xanana's capture by the Indonesian Armed Forces?

[Belo] I cannot make any comment on the rebel leader's capture because that is the affair of the military.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] Is it true that you planned to issue a letter to the rebels to encourage them to leave the jungles, return to the city and lay down their arms?

[Belo] Yes, that is true, but I have not sent the letter to the rebels because I am still waiting for a written guarantee document from the PANGKOLAKOPS [commander of the Operational Execution Command] saying that the rebels will not be executed or tortured after they surrendered!

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] Briefly, what is the content of your letter?

[Belo] The letter explains matters relating to reconciliation, clemency, and a peace settlement.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] Being the religious leader of East Timor, what do you hope for and expect from the dialogue between the Indonesian foreign minister and his Portuguese counterpart in December?

[Belo] I hope that the dialogue will result in the issuance of a resolution that is satisfactory to all parties—to Indonesia, to Portugal, as well as to the people of East Timor. The most important thing is that the resolution adopted should bring good advantage to the East Timorese.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] Within your capacity as a church leader, are you going to participate in international forums to seek ways to settle the East Timor issue?

[Belo] I will provide assistance to such forums, especially in matters relating to human rights so that the integration of East Timor with the Republic of Indonesia can be accepted as something achieved through a diplomatic channel and not through military weapons. Thus the integration of East Timor will gain international recognition because it was carried out in line with the specifications under the UN Charter.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] What should be done in East Timor now to support the diplomatic and political will to justify the positive reasons for the integration?

[Belo] We would need capital investment in the province. We need more manufacturing plants, and to develop both the small and medium scale industries. We want the people of East Timor to be given a chance to join the government service and the ABRI [Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia]. Meanwhile, there should be less military personnel be deployed in the province's sub-districts and villages. An atmosphere of peace and tranquility should be restored. We support Governor Abilio Osorio Soares' proposal for development plan and hope that every group will receive his attention and remain within his control. We also hope that the governor will encourage East Timorese youths to work as civil servants and join the ABRI.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] Do you think the time has come for the KOLAKOPS [Operational Execution Command] in East Timor to be dissolved?

[Belo] The time has come for the KOLAKOPS to be dissolved because now we do not have the Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] members any more!

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] How about development achievements after 16 years of integration with Republic of Indonesia?

[Belo] There is sufficient development. However, development in the villages and remote areas should to be intensified. Besides, we should be told about the amount of the development fund given by an independent team to the Central Government so that we would know whether or not the fund was fully utilized for development projects in East Timor. The implementation of development program in East Timor should allow as many local Timorese as possible to be involved in it and development achievements should be enjoyed by all people of East Timor.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] What about development in religious teachings?

[Belo] We have achieved a steady progress. The only setback is our lack of material resources. For example, there are 24 sub-districts without permanent church buildings and two regencies' capital towns, Suai and Viqueques, have no suitable buildings to be used as churches.

[SUARA PEMBARUAN] Would you like to deliver a message to the people of East Timor?

[Belo] Let us become the people who participate in the development of our province, and let us forgive each other. Let us all be united to uphold our culture and our original identity as the people of East Timor under the slogan of unity in diversity!

E. Timor Governor on Xanana's Capture, ABRI's Role

BK2812094792 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 5 Dec 92 p 24

["Excerpts" of interview With East Timor Governor Abilio Jose Soares By TEMPO Weekly Magazine Correspondents, Bambang Sujatmoko and Diah Purnomowati, in East Timor on 28 November]

[Text] East Timor Governor Abilio Jose Soares, aged 45, was on a visit to Baucau when Xanana was captured. Upon his return to Dili, he had the opportunity to talk on his former high school colleague [Xanana]. "When he was in school, he did not create any problems," said Abilio referring to Xanana. The governor, who took up his appointment in September, was interviewed by TEMPO correspondents Bambang Sujatmoko and Diah Purnomowati at the East Timor Provincial Department in Jakarta on Saturday last week.

[TEMPO] What is your opinion of Xanana's capture?

[Abilio] His capture was of no national interest, but is is good for the district. The people who had all along been disturbed over Xanana's issues were of the opinion that the issues he raised would bring about changes. The people who were concerned but remained confident, have now been calmed.

[TEMPO] What is your opinion of Xanana?

[Abilio] Frankly speaking, he is a leader. He is a good person. He only posed problems when he became a leader. It was a pity that he was forced to carry out his responsibilities. His father was a good and respected missionary teacher. When we were schoolmates, he did not like to create problems.

[TEMPO] According to your assessment, how strong is Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor]?

[Abilio] The Fretilin is not well-armed. It has only a handful of members. Their strength is minimal and the movement is led by three leaders namely Mau Hunu, Mapanrua, and David Alex. Each group has only about 50 weapons and this number was also unconfirmed.

[TEMPO] It is understood that they operate around the cities.

[Abilio] Yes, they operate around the cities and the problems they cause are only trivial.

[TEMPO] Is the number of Xanana's followers huge?

[Abilio] In my opinion, it has been a difficult task for us to keep track of them. They cannot be accounted for—particularly over the last five years. Their members move about freely and discreetly, thus making it difficult for us to identify them.

[TEMPO] It seems that East Timor is only being developed by ABRI [Indonesian Armed Forces].

[Abilio] ABRI is my partner for development. Besides, I have asked ABRI to assist me in developing East Timor, particularly in resettlement [preceding word in English], because I do not have the expertise. First, the allocation for the construction of houses is limited and contractors only earn a minimal benefit. If ABRI undertakes the construction, then allocations are approved. And ABRI is ever willing to do so.

[TEMPO] How long does ABRI need to develop East Timor?

[Abilio] This depends on the infrastructure which is needed. First, roads in desolate regions need to be constructed. Roads, ports, and irrigation networks in the south—the latter to irrigate the rice fields—are urgently needed. We also need two road networks running from north to south in order to penetrate into the isolated central district. If these infrastructures are established, then there is no need for ABRI to be involved in the development of East Timor because transportation would then flow smoothly. The ABRI is needed in East Timor for at least another five years.

[TEMPO] What is your opinion with regard to Professor Mubyarto's concept that ABRI's presence would remind people of the civil war days?

[Abilio] I respect the intellectual's concept. But such a concept should be in alignment with the situation and the place. It could be that his concept is only good, based on an analysis, for certain people who detest and possess a negative attitude for ABRI. But once again, I really need ABRI's assistance.

[TEMPO] If such assistance is needed, would an assault battalion also be needed?

[Abilio] It would be appropriate to ask the regional commander about such an issue. In my opinion, such a force would not be needed. What is needed is only a territorial operation. The assault group is already sufficient from the KOREM [Military Sub-Area Command] organic group while the KOLAKOPS [Regional Executive Command] is unnecessary. As for development, there is no need for officials to be disbanded.

[TEMPO] What is your program if you are independent and you no longer need ABRI's assistance?

[Abilio] There is much to do in terms of physical development. Zipur [expansion unknown] is currently involved in road and bridge construction projects and I have decided that these projects should be completed over a two-year period. Following the completion of these projects, I will privatize such projects until such time that we have new expertise.

[TEMPO] What is your priority as a governor?

[Abilio] I have reported to President Suharto concerning the situation in East Timor and I have received guidelines on how to classify people within and outside the province. My first priority, which was already approved, would be to classify all government department officials born in East Timor. I have met with the home minister and a guideline on the formation of government department heads for East Timor has already been drawn up. In the first stage, each district department will have 50 personnel with high school educational qualifications. Those with tertiary educational qualifications would help train the other personnel. This would benefit East Timor. Those with tertiary education qualifications would have the opportunity to head the departments within a three- to five-year period while the personnel with only high school education qualification would only have such an opportunity within a five- to 10-year period. This would be implemented until such time when the departments become fully equipped with the local personnel. With regard to the objective of developing the East Timor community, I have asked that the appointments of class II officials and those below them be given to those born or raised in East Timor. Such appointments should not be taken up by those coming from the central authorities or outside the province.

[TEMPO] When will such a regulation be effective?

[Abilio] Beginning now.

Iranian Minister Studies Cooperation Possibilities

BK2212155692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Iran is studying the possibility of establishing cooperation with Indonesia in the cement, mechinery, shipping, and steel industries. Speaking after he met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister (Awaluddin Rudolfi) in Jakarta this morning, Junior Minister of Industries Tungky Ariwobowo said Iran was now actively developing its economy after the Gulf War had ended. Iran also wants to strengthen industrial cooperation with developing countries. That country is also interested in learning from Indonesia's experience in boosting its nonoil and nongas exports, which have reached 65 percent of its total exports.

Minister Tungky Ariwibowo noted that Iran wanted to build at least 10 cement factories and badly needed raw materials and technicians from Indonesia. In response to the Iranian Government's request, Indonesia is ready to build cement factories in that country. The Indonesian Government will soon dispatch a delegation to Iran to help build the factories.

Laos

Status of Vote Count Reported as of 27 Dec

BK2812061892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] According to reports from various constituencies reaching the national-level Election Committee, as of 1730 on 27 December, vote counting has been reported complete in 14 constituencies as follows:

1. Constituency 7—Sayaboury Province.
2. Constituency 5—Bokeo Province.
3. Constituency 15—Champassak Province.
4. Constituency 14—Saravane Province.
5. Constituency 18—Sianghon-Hongsa special zone.
6. Constituency 1—Vientiane municipality.
7. Constituency 17—Attopeu Province.
8. Constituency 9—Xieng Khouang Province. In this constituency, there are in total 83,496 eligible voters, including 41,291 women. Out of the total 83,496 eligible voters, 80,156, including 39,841 women, turned out to vote. This represents 96 percent of the total number of voters. Of these, 80,083 ballots were valid while the other 73 ballots, or 0.9 percent, were spoiled. Some 3,340 eligible voters failed to cast their votes.
9. Constituency 4—Oudomsai Province. In this constituency, there are in total 93,649 eligible voters, including 47,069 women. Of these, 93,510, representing 99.84 percent of the eligible voters, turned out to vote. Some 142 eligible voters failed to exercise their rights. [all figures as heard] Four ballots were spoiled.
10. Constituency 3—Luang Namtha Province. In this constituency, all 53,000 eligible voters turned out to vote. There were eight void ballots, or 0.2 percent of the total ballots.
11. Constituency 10—Vientiane Province. There are altogether 139,795 eligible voters. Of these, 139,390, representing 99.71 percent, exercised their rights to cast votes. Some 189 ballots, or 0.14 percent, were spoiled.
12. Constituency 13—Savannakhet Province. In this constituency, there are in total 295,640 eligible voters. Of these, 294,838, or 99.73 percent of the total voters, turned out to vote. Some 956 ballots, representing 0.32 percent, were spoiled.
13. Constituency 8—Houa Phan Province. In this constituency, four out of seven candidates were to be elected. There are altogether 100,572 eligible voters. Of

these, 100,376, representing 99.81 percent of the total voters, turned out to vote. Some 86 ballots, or 0.9 percent, were spoiled.

14. Constituency 2—Khammouane Province. In this constituency, there were nine candidates with five to be elected. There are in total 121,606 eligible voters. Of these, 120,282, representing 98.91 percent of the total voters, turned out to vote. There were 150 void ballots, or 0.12 percent of the total.

As for other constituencies, vote counting is reportedly continuing.

Several Provinces To Experience Rice Shortage

BK2412104192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] An official in charge of agriculture in Luang Namtha Province recently disclosed that from this year to next year's rice harvest season the people in the province will suffer a shortage of rice for about nine or 10 months as a result of low seasonal rice production this year.

On average, each citizen will be supplied with only 96 kilogrammes of paddy a year. Due to drought, 80 percent of the total rice production areas in the province were damaged. The most seriously affected areas were in the Districts of Namtha, Sing, and Nale.

Because of this, the Agriculture Ministry has dispatched a group of technicians to coordinate with the provincial agriculture service in encouraging farmers to grow supplementary crops on 121 hectares of farmland. Eighty of the hectares are in Namtha District, 20 hectares are in Sing District, 10 hectares are in Long District, and 11 hectares are in Viang Phoukha District. For the time being, a total of 10 metric tons of rice grains have been sent from the Agriculture Ministry to the farmers.

Meanwhile, the agriculture service of Toumlan District, Saravane Province, has forecast that the seasonal rice production in the district this year would be about 561 metric tons. To feed a total population of more than 15,000 citizens in the district with this quantity of paddy produce, the people will still be short of rice for about two months. The district agriculture officials are trying to solve this problem by encouraging farmers to grow cash crops and raise animals in order to gain additional income for their families.

The seasonal rice harvests of the farmers in Thakhek District, Khammouane Province are not as good as they should be due to pestilence damage. According to a preliminary forecast, in 1993 the people in the district will suffer a shortage of approximately 8,000 metric tons of rice.

Philippines

Reports Differ on Release of U.S. Missionary

HK2812040592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Father Augustine Frazczack is believed to have been released by his kidnapers, suspected members of the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], in the town of Tipu-Tipo in Basilan. A police official has said that Basilan Bishop Romy de la Cruz went to Tipu-Tipu to fetch the priest last Saturday. The report said that the American priest, who chose to remain in the area to continue his missionary work, has been held for over nine weeks now. The Basilan military said it will formally announce the details of Father Frazczack's release today.

In related news, a foreign news agency has reported that Father Frazczack is still in the hands of the MNLF and will be killed if the ransom of 5 million Philippine pesos is not paid. The report said that the MNLF has demanded a 10-percent downpayment before any negotiation for the priest's release can take place. It also indicated that the church has offered an amount that it can afford to pay, but it would not accede to the kidnapers' full ransom demand. The report added that Father Frazczack was kidnaped because his mission angered the Yakan tribe in the province.

Defense Chief Orders Fund for Former Rebels

HK2112124292 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Dec 92 pp 1, 25

[Report by Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato S. de Villa ordered yesterday the release of P10 million [Philippine pesos] for the resettlement area of former New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Mindoro Occidental.

De Villa discussed the project with Efren Rodrigo, alias "Commander Pepe," chairman of the rebel returnees of Mindoro Occidental; Brig. Gen. Cesar F. Fortuno, Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) chief; Mindoro Occidental Gov. Josephine Ramirez Sato, Supt. George Ancheta, Mindoro Occidental Philippine National Police (PNP) director; Defense Undersecretary Ernesto Gidaya, and Capt. Johnny Andaya of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Civil Relations Service.

Earlier, Chief Supt. Manuel S. Salimbangon, PNP Recom [Regional Command] 4 chief, and Fortuno met with Rodrigo in San Jose, Mindoro, and heard the plight of 279 former rebels.

Rodrigo told Salimbangon and Fortuno that some of the returnees chided the government for its alleged failure to give them a decent life under the National Reconciliation and Development Program (NRDP).

Rodrigo said a 1,000-hectare resettlement area is ready for the returnees, but they are not yet allowed to settle there.

Last month, Rodrigo and his men entered the area and built 25 huts and the post chapel. They also cleared five hectares of land to plant crops. But they said they have no seeds for planting such as corn and palay of the upland variety.

Quezon Gov. Eduardo T. Rodriguez donated a cavan [50 kg] of certified corn seeds, while Fortuno gave two cavans of palay seeds of the upland variety.

Conrado Gonzales, Region 4 director of the Department of Agriculture, said he will give certified corn and palay seeds and tropical fruit trees suited for the climate in the resettlement area.

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Alma de Leon said she will give the rebel returnees food and cash until they harvest the corn and palay they planted.

De Villa said he ordered the 51st Brigade of the Army's construction battalion to send a company of engineering officers and men to build a reservoir and a waterworks system in the resettlement area in barangay Mauto, Rizal, Mindoro Occidental.

The 1,000-hectare land was donated by former judge Jesus Abeleda, the Viena family, and the A. Arevalo family to the rebel returnees.

Fortuno said next week, he will send seeds to the area through a Philippine Air Force helicopter. He added he will send medical and dental teams to the area to treat many former rebels suffering from malaria and diarrhea.

The former rebels cited President Ramos for his pledge to help the rebel returnees.

Rodrigo said many rebels in Mindoro will surrender to the government and avail themselves of the National Reconciliation and Development Program. He said Renato Damhimbro, alias "Ka [comrade] Willer," chairman of the security committee for the resettlement area and former team leader of the Mindoro NPA Committee, has surrendered and is helping him develop the resettlement area.

Fortuno said Rodrigo's group will be trained by Bernabe Buscayno, alias "Commander Dante," founder of the NPA, in handling cooperatives and marketing farm products.

Government Suspends Proceedings Against Rebels

HK2412133192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon yesterday ordered all government prosecutors to suspend all proceedings in the rebellion cases filed against Colonel Gregorio Honasan and his fellow rebel soldiers. Drilon said all court martial proceedings against the military rebels will also be suspended. Honasan and other renegade soldiers have been charged with rebellion before the Quezon City Regional trial court for staging the December 1989 coup d'etat.

Ramos Orders Release of 133 Rebels 23 Dec

HK2412122092 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 24 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Angelo E. Lanuza and Romie A. Evangelista]

[Excerpt] President Ramos yesterday ordered the release from detention of 65 communists and 68 military rebels in view of the government's amnesty program.

The release was announced by Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon.

At the same time, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa ordered the release of the military and police rebels effective today.

The defense chief issued the directive after signing a preliminary agreement with top rebel leaders.

Drilon, in a press conference said the release of the 133 prisoners was made by Mr. Ramos in a bid to achieve "just and lasting peace" in the country.

The newly-freed detainees brought to 417 the total number of imprisoned political dissidents released by President Ramos since the government launched its peace initiatives last August.

Drilon, however, said the freed leftist and rightist prisoners did not include Jaime Tadeo, the jailed leader of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) [Farmers Movement of the Philippines].

Human rights groups have been asking President Ramos to release Tadeo, saying that his conviction for estafa [swindling] was a "political vendetta."

Tadeo has been languishing in a medium-security cell at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa since he was convicted by the Bulacan Regional Trial Court of estafa two years ago.

The presidential task force headed by Drilon earlier recommended to Mr. Ramos the release of these prisoners before Christmas.

Drilon, in the same press forum, said those released were from the National Penitentiary and other detention centers nationwide.

The police and military officers are detained at various military camps in Metro Manila for alleged involvement in several coup attempts during the administration of President Aquino.

The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] said it has 43 military officers and men under confinement who would be all placed under the custody of their respective service commanders.

Camp Crame sources said there are still at least 15 rebel officers from the defunct Philippine Constabulary [PC]/Integrated National Police detained at the Camp Crame Detention Center.

Military officers Brig. Gen. Jose Commendador; former PC Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina and Army Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando, who underwent compulsory retirement while still under confinement, will be placed under the custody of Brig. Gen. Victor Mayo, Camp Aguinaldo campcommander.

Former Lt. Col. Reynaldo Cabauatan, though a member of the defunct Philippine Constabulary, will be placed under the custody of Maj. Gen. Arturo Enrile, Army chief. [passage omitted]

Text of Agreement Between Government, Rebels

HK2412130592 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 24 Dec 92 p 1

[Capitalization as published]

[Text] **PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT**

The GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, represented in this preliminary agreement by SECRETARY RENATO S. DE VILLA, duly authorized for this purpose, and

The REBOLUSYONARYONG ALYANSANG MAKABANSA (RAM-SFF-YOU), represented in this preliminary agreement by COMMODOR DOMINGO H. CALAJATE, COLONEL GREGORIO B. HONASAN and CAPTAIN DANILO D. LIM, all duly authorized for this purpose.

Hereby declare:

1. There is an urgent need to establish a just, honorable and lasting peace in the Philippines, in order to attain a humane and progressive society.

2. The immediate cessation of hostilities and the determination of the date of the formal talks shall establish an atmosphere of civility, goodwill and mutual trust conducive to the early attainment of a just, honorable and lasting peace.

Now, therefore, it is hereby agreed that:

1. There shall be immediate and complete cessation of hostilities between the parties (including supporters). Such cessation of hostilities shall cover all other acts short of armed activities which can be considered as hostile like surveillance, special operations, arrest, recruitment, and any act or activity that can be considered as destabilization. The government shall suspend court martial proceedings, and take steps to secure the suspension of judicial proceedings, including service of warrants, preliminary investigation and the links.

2. The cessation of hostilities and the suspension of the offer of reward money shall be in force for the duration of this agreement and the formal talks.

3. The parties shall form their respective negotiation panels and finalize their talking points on January 11, 1993.

4. The formal talks shall commence in the second week of January, 1993.

5. Both parties shall operate consistently with and within the framework of the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

DONE in Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, this 23rd day of December 1992. FOR THE GOVERNMENT: [signed] RENATO S. DE VILLA FOR THE RAM-KSP-YOU: [signed] DOMINGO H. CALAJATE GREGORIO B. HONASAN DANILO D. LIM ATTESTED BY: [Signed] HAYDEE B. YORAC Chairperson National Unification Commission.

Rebels Reject Coup Attempt During Peace Process

HK2612035192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] There will be no coups d'etat in 1993 and in the following years.

In an exclusive interview with DWIZ, General Jose Comendador, one of the leaders of the Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance [RAM], said this was one of the provisions of the preliminary agreement signed between RAM leaders and the National Unification Commission.

Comendador said that while the peace process is going on, no armed conflict will erupt between the government and the rebel forces.

Congressman Eduardo Ermita, a member of the National Unification Commission, said he believes the RAM is sincere in seeking lasting peace in the country.

He said the people should avoid being suspicious of the rebel soldiers led by renegade Lieutenant Colonel Gregorio Honasan now that they have surfaced and committed themselves to the peace process.

Ermita said any suspicion will not help in the peace process, especially since the Honasan group had just emerged from hiding and the formal peace talks between the government and the rebels were still to start.

CPP Threat Dismissed as 'Mere Propaganda'

HK2812061092 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 28 Dec 92 p 3

[Report by Merlinda Manalo]

[Text] Malacanang yesterday dismissed as mere propaganda a threat by the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] to intensify its armed struggle against the Ramos administration despite peace efforts by the government.

"That's their usual line," Press Secretary Rod Reyes said, reacting to a statement issued by the CPP marking its 24th founding anniversary Saturday.

The statement issued by the CPP central committee stated: "The (CPP) celebrates the 24th anniversary of its establishment with a great resolve than ever to unite the party membership and raise higher the fighting will and capabilities of the Filipino people against the enemy—the U.S.-Ramos clique."

Reyes, however, belittled the communist rebels threat. "The communists always attach the U.S. to whatever administration is in power. It's a standard line," he added.

The CPP, in its statement named the Ramos administration as its main target in its revolutionary movement.

The statement, titled "Unite to Raise Higher the Fighting Will and Capabilities of the Party and the People," was confirmed by CPP founding chairman Jose Ma. Sison, who is based in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Sison said that the armed struggle by communist rebels will continue since the conditions that spawned the insurgency had worsened under the Ramos administration.

Reyes, however, recalled that President Ramos had said that communist insurgents do not have anymore the capability to mount many major attacks against the government since its mass base had weakened and its organization "dismembered" with the factionalism that has wracked its leadership.

Reyes said that despite the CPP statement, the government will continue reaching out to communist rebels through peace talks spearheaded by the National Unification Commission [NUC] under Haydee Yorac.

The President had also said that with the collapse of communism in other parts of the globe, the movement here was also expected to break up especially since the organization had based its following not purely on ideology and political beliefs but more on capitalizing on the poverty of the people which his administration was not addressing.

Sison, however, had laughed off the government's claim that the communist movement here had weakened.

Sison also criticized the localized peace talks or "territorial consultations" being made by the NUC which he said was meant to isolate the National Democratic Front [NDF] leadership.

The NUC had said that it will continue talks with the NDF designated representative, Luis Jalandoni amid reports of infighting in the communist leadership. The NUC, however, will also pursue its talks with local rebel leaders in the countryside.

Editorial: CPP Should Rectify Errors, Disband

HK2812042292 Quezon City MALAYA in English 26 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Time To Disband"]

[Text] Twenty-four years ago, a group of young University of the Philippines intellectuals met somewhere in Pangasinan. That meeting gave birth to the reestablished Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]. Society would never be the same after that.

With the help of a Central Luzon politician, the ideologues got in touch three months later with a group of disgruntled members of Hukbong Magpapalaya ng Bayan [Freedom Fighters of the Nation], leading to the formation of the New People's Army [NPA]. In 1970, CPP-led activists would be storming the gates of Malacanang, and two years later President Marcos would declare martial law. In the early 1980s the NPAs would be operating on 74 guerrillas fronts all over the country, the Sparrows would bring the war to the cities and it appeared to be only a matter of time before the communists would succeed in their singular aim of seizing state power.

Came 1986. In their hubris, communist leaders rejected participation in the rebuilding of democratic structures and processes. It was a series of unmitigated disasters for the communists thereafter. The NPA fighting force would be whittled to less than half of its 24,000 full-time fighters. The labor and student movements from which they used to draw an inexhaustible corps of cadres would peter out. The moderates would cut their umbilical cord from the underground and pursue parliamentary struggle.

Tomorrow, the CPP enters its 25th year of struggle with the distinct possibility of being marginalized. It is wracked by a bitter internal struggle. Jose Ma. Sison, from his haven in Netherlands, has been vociferating against the leaders he left behind. The Manila Rizal regional committee, with a long history of independent thinking, together with the Visayas and Mindanao commissions, is responding in kind. The NPA Banahaw Command under the redoubtable "Ka [Comrade] Hector" has turned to brigandage. It will take iron discipline for the rest of the leaderless, starving, ill-armed guerrillas to resist the temptation of banditry. The faith of the cadres in socialism has been deeply shaken by the disintegration of Socialist Europe.

Given these realities, the CPP leadership owes it to its unquestionably selfless cadres and to the war-weary Filipino people whom they say they serve and, yes, to the ideals of socialism, to dump the strategy of class war and armed revolution.

It is not enough for the CPP leadership to go back to its roots of 1968 in search of answers to its current crisis. Armando Liwanag, said to be the nom de guerre of Sison, came out in the middle of the year with the document "Reaffirm Our Principles and Rectify Errors" in an attempt to give new life to the communist movement. It is a recitation of the same old Maoist doctrines that underpin the 1968 founding document "Rectify Errors and Rebuild the Party."

Going back to the Truth as revealed by Mao Zedong does not go far back enough for the communists to solve the crisis gripping the party. Not even a return to Lenin and a rethinking of "State and Revolution" will do. The approximate historical parallel probably lies in the crisis of the labor movement during the Second International. One path gave us Leninism. The other, championed by the now forgotten Karl Kautsky, abandoned the doctrine of class war and opted for open struggle in the political arena. The result is the vibrant Labor movement in Britain and Social Democracy in Europe, with the working class sharing in the fruits of the full flowering of capitalism.

Are Filipino communists capable of such soul-wrenching self-examination? Of laying down their arms and joining all democratic forces in the competition for power through the electoral process? Likely not, with the dominance of hardliners in the upper echelons of leadership.

But in this season of hope, we can hope. Here's hoping that exactly a year from now the communists would come out with a document carrying the self-explanatory title "Rectify Errors and Disband the Party."

Anti-Insurgency Operations Transferred to Police

HK2812042592 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 26 Dec 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Manny Mogato]

[Text] Indicating increased confidence in the fight against the communist insurgency, President Ramos has approved the transfer to the Philippine National Police [PNP] of the military's counterinsurgency duties in 21 areas in the country, including Metro Manila.

Malacanang said the transfer would preserve the resources of the armed forces and enable them to concentrate in the few areas it still considered strongly influenced by the guerrillas like Samar island, Bicol and the Cordilleras.

Mr. Ramos' order came on the eve of the 24th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], whose leaders in recent weeks have come out publicly debating the future of their own revolution in the face of the downfall of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

General Lisandro Abadia, armed chief of staff, said the military would remain "extra vigilant and alert."

Malacanang said the PNP takeover of counterinsurgency operations would also help prepare itself as the sole internal security arm of the government in early 1994, when the military leadership expects to have wrested "full strategic control" from the insurgents.

Mr. Ramos approved the transfer of duties based on the recommendation of the leaderships of both the military and the police. The provinces where it applies are Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan in Region 1; Batanes in Region 2; Benguet in the Cordillera; Bataan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales in Region 3; Marinduque, Romblon, and the two Mindoro provinces in Region 4; Catanduanes and Masbate in Region 5; Capiz in Region 6; Bohol and Cebu in Region 7; Leyte and Southern Leyte in Region 8; and Camiguin Island in Region 10.

Military leaders said the insurgents evidently had also eased on Metro Manila and noted particularly an end to urban terrorism. They further noted that moderate communist leaders appeared to have prevailed over their hardline comrades in Metro Manila and Rizal province.

Apart from the 21 provinces, Mr. Ramos has also allowed the PNP to assume counterinsurgency responsibilities in specific areas in some cities and towns. These are:

—Region 4 - Laguna (first and second districts only)

—Region 6 - Negros Occidental (three cities and two towns)

—Region 7 - Negros Oriental (one city and eight towns)

—Region 8 - Samar (nine towns)

—Region 9 - Zamboanga del Norte (two cities and four towns), Zamboanga del Sur (two cities and two towns), Misamis Occidental (two cities and one town) and Lanao del Norte (one city and six towns).

—Region 10 - Misamis Oriental (two cities and 15 towns), Bukidnon (eight towns), Agusan del Sur (14 towns) and Agusan del Norte (one city).

—Region 11 - Davao del Sur (six towns), Davao del Norte (six towns) and Davao Oriental (11 towns).

—Region 12 - Cotabato (one town) and South Cotabato (three towns). On the whole, the PNP has taken over control over 30,000 barangay. In the remaining 12,000, the military will continue to handle counterinsurgency and security-related tasks.

Mr. Ramos said he was confident his administration would be able to solve the communist insurgency problem through peaceful means. Still, he said he wanted vigorous military operations to continue against those who had defied his peace overtures.

His order for the armed forces to continue their anti-rebel functions was aimed at pressuring the New People's Army [NPA] to give up their armed struggle and accept the government's offer of peace.

Based on latest estimates, the CPP-NPA-NDF [National Democratic Front] strength has been further reduced to 11,700 regulars, with less than 9,000 assorted firearms.

Their control or influence has also declined, exercising it now only over some 2,000 villages. They also count only about 40 guerrilla bases nationwide.

Brigadier General Alfredo Filler, the military's intelligence chief, said the insurgency movement had been greatly weakened, citing several combat indicators, like fatality ratio, firearms exchange ratio, and the number of combat operations initiated by the guerillas.

Evidence Shows NPA Chief Involved in Kidnaping

HK2512024292 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 25 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] A Communist New People's Army [NPA] chieftain in Southern Tagalog, a local official and the country's Public Enemy No. 1 were monitored negotiating the ransom for a kidnapped son of a Filipino-Chinese trader in October, a Presidential Anti-Crime Commission [PACC] reported showed. The report, dated Nov. 21, was signed by Superintendent Panfilo Lacson, head of the PACC Task Force Habagat.

The Inquirer was furnished a copy of the report following Vice President Joseph Estrada's disclosure that Hector Mabilangan, chief of the NPA Banahaw Command, had teamed up with Alfredo de Leon, leader of the dreaded Red Scorpion Gang. The PACC report said Mabilangan, alias Ka [Comrade] Hector, and De Leon, alias Joey, tapped a Southern Tagalog mayor as go-between in ransom negotiations with the family of Robert Castro Yao.

Yao, 25-year-old son of the owner of Bennison Auto Commercial along Taft Avenue in Manila, was reportedly kidnapped on Sept. 17. Yao was released in October after his family paid a P7-million ransom to the kidnappers.

Estrada said information provided by police and military intelligence-groups indicated that De Leon and Mabilangan now lead the most formidable kidnap gang in the country. Estrada said De Leon is based north of Metro Manila, while Mabilangan is based in San Pablo City. The military has offered a P2.5-million [Philippine pesos] reward for De Leon's capture and P500,000 for Mabilangan.

The Criminal Investigation Service Command in March filed charges against De Leon, Mabilangan and 33 other communist rebels in connection with the kidnapping of American business executive Michael Barnes. Barnes, kidnapped by the Red Scorpion Gang in January, was rescued in March in a bloody rescue operation that left at least 12 suspected gang members dead.

In his report, Lacson said Task Force Habagat is also monitoring other kidnap and robbery gangs led by ex-Pfc Edwin Ballad, alias Pileto, Dodo Pundato, alias Dikong, Elesio Corpuz, alias Nestor Magtoto, Nick Perucho, Kuratong Baliling and Dado Muklo. Estrada said De Leon's Red Seorpion Gang has about 50 men but Mabilangan's force is "much bigger." He did not cite figures. The NPA has said it had expelled De Leon, adding he is now operating under the supervision of two top military officers. Many kidnap gangs are led by both active and former military and police personnel.

Compromise Reached on Debt Service Cut

HK1712060092 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 17 Dec 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Redempto Anda and Cathy Canares]

[Text] Congress' bicameral conference committee yesterday limited to P100 billion [Philippine pesos] the automatic allocation for foreign-debt payments in the 1993 budget but gave Malacanang the prerogative to raise the amount in case it is not enough.

The amount was a compromise reached after the senate proposed to cut the P126 billion budget share for debt servicing to P99.8 billion.

Leaders of both panels met with President Ramos Tuesday night to hammer out the compromise. It was adopted by the body at yesterday's meeting, paving the way for the measure's ratification before congress takes its Christmas break.

Despite the reduction, the amount could not be considered as a debt cap because a "flexibility clause" allows Malacanang to use its power to make automatic appropriations in case the debt-service budget falls short.

Malacanang had proposed the compromise after a study revealed that it could in fact reduce the estimated budget deficit of P21.1 billion if the peso continues its strong performance against the dollar. The budget as prepared by the executive had placed next year's exchange rate at P30:$1, which economists say is much too high.

House opposition leaders denounced the compromise proposal as misleading and "a cosmetic formulation which does not achieve concrete results."

"In fact, it automatically appropriates debt service in the same manner that the executive is currently doing," Rep. Edcel Lagman, main author of the debt-cap bill, said.

The House Minority Leader, Rep. Hernando Perez, called the compromise measure "a surrender to Malacanang" and "a meaningless gesture worse than consuelo de bobo [consolation prize]."

He proposed that the budget for debt servicing be left as it was proposed by Malacanang and that congress immediately pass a measure that would repeal a Marcos decree empowering the executive to make automatic appropriations.

"This compromise version, if left unmodified, would tie the hands of congress in repealing PD [Presidential Decree] 1177 (the Autonomatic Appropriations Act) and regaining for the legislature the power to appropriate all expenditures of the government, a prerogative which truly and constitutionally belongs to it," Lagman said.

The House Assistant Majority Leader, Rep. Salvador Escudero, said the president should be given the benefit of the doubt. "We should not worry about the automatic-appropriations power being abused by the president. We should show a minimum amount of trust in the Office of the President," he said.

Senate President Neptali Gonzales said the flexibility clause should assure foreign creditors that congress did not impose a debt cap.

Fears that a debt cap would indeed be imposed were raised after the senate had adopted an amendment introduced by Sen. Arturo Tolentino reducing the automatic appropriation for debt service from P126 billion to P99.8 billion.

Gonzales said the flexibility clause was necessary because the budget should make room for adjustments to a sudden increase in interest rates and a faltering peso, which would require a bigger appropriation for debt service.

"The P100 billion is not a ceiling, it is just a projection. This is the nature of the General Appropriations Act, because you cannot predict (fluctuations in) the foreign exchange and interest rates. Nagbabago 'yan, eh [it changes]," Gonzales explained.

At a dinner meeting last Tuesday, Gonzales said members of the bicameral panel asked the President to amend his original budget message and add P6.4 billion in new appropriations apart from debt-service payments and continuing appropriations.

This figure will be used for social services, such as health, infrastructure, and energy projects.

Senate finance committee chairman Edgardo Angara said the bicameral panel had convinced President Ramos of the need to add more funds to the government spending program. He said legislators pointed out that the previous administration was "underspending."

However, Gonzales said the President was "strong" in asking for a restoration of the cuts made by Congress in ongoing government projects "not realizing that these cuts are known to the departments concerned."

Thailand

Premier Interviewed After Meeting U.S. Senators

BK2412144492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and four other senators, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador to Thailand David Floyd Lambertson, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Chuan Likphai at Government House today. The U.S. Senate delegation is currently on a visit to Thailand and other countries in this region.

The prime minister welcomed the U.S. senators to Thailand and praised their visit here as the endeavor of the United States to help bring peace to the world. As for the Cambodian problem, the prime minister said that Thailand is ready to comply with the UN Security Council's resolution so as to reaffirm and prove its sincerity in its cooperation with the United Nations and expressed hope that the United States, under the leadership of President Clinton, will implement a foreign policy of putting more emphasis on relations with countries in the Asia and Pacific region. He said he truly believed that cooperation in various fields between the United States and countries in this region will increase.

The U.S. senators praised the prime minister and expressed their satisfaction with Thailand's decision to comply with the UN resolution as a member of the world community. However, it is suspicious that the Khmer Rouge will seriously participate in the peace process, especially in the election, because it feared that it would not be elected to the new government.

After the meeting with the U.S. senators, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai granted an interview with reporters:

[Begin recording] [Chuan] He and the president come from the same political party. Sam Nunn is known to be a pro-democracy senator and opposes countries that violate human rights. He does not include Thailand among such countries. He regards us as a democratic country.

[Unidentified reporter] Will you ask them to help turn our country to be the hub of regional prosperity?

[Chuan] I asked him about any change in the policy of the new administration of President-elect Clinton toward this region because during the election campaign, the president talked very little about this region. He told me that there was no big issue about this region during that period. However, he reaffirmed that the president is interested in this region, not less than other places.

[Unidentified reporter] How is the new U.S. President-elect interested in Thailand?

[Chuan] They regard us as one of their true friends and a democratic country.

[Unidentified reporter] It is apparent that the United States and even the ambassador pay special attention to you. Right after your assumption of the post, the ambassador called on you in your capacity as the leader of the Democrat Party. How will you make use of this advantage?

[Chuan] I asked them to tell him that he can have confidence in Thailand's democracy. The United States supports countries that follow the democratic path. We ask them to support us. They also asked me about the Khmer Rouge. I reaffirmed that they do not have anything to worry because Thailand adheres to the principle. We stand for righteousness. Like all countries, we have a problem in dealing with the interests of our private sectors. At the national level, however, we must stand firm to defend our national interests. They, including the ambassador, said they understand our point. As for political relations between our two countries, Senator Sam Nunn has many friends in Thailand. Considering his close contacts with the president, I believe that he can act as our mouthpiece to a certain extent. [end recording]

Military To Review UNTAC Staff Travel

BK2512152892 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] According to Lieutenant General Anuson Kritsanaserani, the director of the Supreme Command Informatin Ofice, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials do not fully understand Thai law and have not strictly complied with it. He asked that UNTAC officials strictly respect Thai law when in Thai territory. Anuson said the military is considering ways to make UNTAC officials respect Thai law. The first measure will be to check entry and exit by UNTAC officials to ensure that they have proper permission.

Anuson said the Thai military is not happy about the allegation about Thailand's support of the Khmer Rouge when in fact Thailand has always carried out UN policies. He asked that every side help make the world community, particularly local UNTAC officials, understand that Thailand does not support the Khmer Rouge.

To date, operations between the Thai Armed Forces and UNTAC have always been [words indistinct]. The problems that have arisen have usually been caused by UNTAC officials and have concerned coordination.

Anuson noted that despite the current fighting in some Cambodian areas, Thailand is determined to repatriate Cambodian refugees in accordance with the UN resolution in order to meet the election scheduled for May. He said the former refugee centers will be organized as self-defense villages.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai Interviewed

BK2812044592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 92 pp A1, A2

["Special interview" with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai by THE NATION—date, place not given]

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai says his key agenda is to foster a political climate in which bad or inefficient governments are ousted by voters, not army tanks.

One difficulty is that if his administration is itself rejected by the public, the politically tamed armed forces may again flex their muscles.

But most of all, Thailand's first "ordinary man" to become head of government says he does not want to be seen as the country's last "democracy indicator"—whose failure or success means live-or-die for the system.

"I want the people to see the value of the system, not the govemment," he said during a special interview.

I want to be seen as just a part of a system which always gives people new choices if a govemment fails."

Chuan acknowledged that as far as democracy is concerned, it is important that his government put up an impressive performance. But he cautioned against interpreting individual politicians' shortcomings to be democratic flaws.

Yet while giving him such importance could be dangerous to democracy, it is undeniable the public ushered in Premier Chuan at a time when democratic sentiment was peaking. And what is difficult for him is that political euphoria always accompanies high expectations, and most often ends in disillusionment.

Chuan has found the honeymoon atmosphere quickly evaporating. Unsettled consequences of the May crisis have hounded his administration, trapping it between the pressing need for immediate national reconciliation and calls for a new social standard to ensure rulers committing crimes against their own people are punished for their acts.

His government's handling of the controversial amnesty decree pardoning all involved in the May bloodbath has been severely criticized. After the decree was rejected by Parliament, the administration asked the public to accept the Constitution Tribunal's ruling that the rejection could not retroactively abolish the amnesty.

Next came criticism that the Chuan government spent too much time warming-up, and had failed to produce any significant performances. Silent yet noticeable rivalry among his coalition partners has added to the rapid decline of optimism.

Chuan laughed when asked if he thought growing criticism stemmed from unrealistic expectations. "Maybe it is I who should ask you this question," he said.

Pre-occupation with unenviable legacy is an understandable excuse. Chuan cited the amnesty uproar, the judicial crisis and the khor jor kor land resettlement scheme, among other issues, to counter accusations that his government was moving too slowly.

The prime minister insisted the public must realize that sometimes the government and the media think differently about what should be done first.

"The government listens to the media's opinions, he said," but it's not necessary for the government to think the same way or do what the media says. Some issues are just sensationalism which will rapidly die down."

Chuan's unwavering principle of "always respect the parliamentary system" played a major role in his Democrat Party's unexpected election victory, overwhelming doubts about his "cowardice" during the May turbulence. But he admitted that he suffered from his play-by-the-rules stand when it came to the amnesty controversy.

"I knew the government would be criticized for its stand on the amnesty. But we have to endure it if we are to make everybody respect the law," he said.

Making everybody equal under the law is his ultimate goal, Chuan stated. "It is impossible to make people equally rich. But we can make them equal under the law.

"What the government has to do is prove that governments and politicians that come from the democratic system can serve. That, of course, depends on whether we can make elections clean and fair."

Despite all the obstacles, the Chuan government has many advantages: It wields a strong public mandate, the military has been docile and the Opposition is facing credibility problems.

Under huge pressure to be impressive as a prime minister who emerged out of Thais' democratic aspirations, Chuan Likphai has set a complicated agenda, one that seeks to enhance the real value of democracy but which will likely unravel if he fails as an individual.

Deputy Premier Interviewed on Economic Issues

BK2812040792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Dec 92 pp B1, B2

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak by Chirawat Na-thalang and Aphisak Tanasetthakon of THE NATION—date, place not given]

[Text] Dr Suphachai Phanitchaphak could have scarcely thought he would become a practitioner of the 7th National Economic and Social Development Plan, a plan for which he was one of the key architects.

Now that he is deputy prime minister in the Chuan Administration, Suphachai realizes that the roles of architect and practitioner are completely different. "It put me in a difficult position because everyone expects that I will be able to execute the plan fruitfully. But as part of the parliamentary system, all the decisions come from the whole Cabinet, not me," he says, in an interview with *The Nation.*

Suphachai, a non-MP Cabinet member under the Democrat quota, brings with him a strong macro-economic background and a fresh outlook from his banking experience with the Thai Military Bank. His task is to give the Prime Minister the best possible advice on how to strengthen Thailand's competitiveness and accelerate income distribution.

He believes that the Chuan government will be able to achieve income distribution and make it the cornerstone of its economic policy while promoting education in the rural areas, as it said it would in an address to Parliament.

"The government is not only serious about savings mobilization but also about decentralization, moving industrial development to the provinces," he points out.

Sitting in his spacious office at the Government House, Suphachai looks comfortable and displays a keen insight into a wide range of economic issues. If he is uncertain on any particular issue he will not hesitate to say so. Questioned about human rights at home, the banker-turned-minister, declined to answer, saying "Let me study the issue for a while."

The former president of the Thai Military Bank stressed his concerns about the lack of human resources for research and development, the foundation of growth for an industrial economy.

"The private sector should understand the necessity and take more of a role to improve these areas. They should not just wait for government initiatives," he says.

Although Prime Minister Chuan has been criticized for hts weaknesses in handling economic issues, Suphachai urges the public to put more faith in the Prime Minister. He argues, "We have been developing the rural areas for 30 years but the prosperity is still very narrowly concentrated in Bangkok. It is not possible to solve the problems which date back more than 30 years in one mere year."

But Suphachai said, "At least the government is moving policy in the right direction. Rural people do not lack savings but they need assistance in management and education. The challenge is to help them to get along with modern society. "How can we improve society if the majority are still illiterate," he says.

During the Prem V govemment, Suphachai, then a deputy finance minister, played a key role in proposing the establishment of an exim bank to be named the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation. Such an institution would help finance exporters and help them penetrate new markets. Once formed, its benefits would also reach rural people engaged in the farm produce business.

The Bank of Thailand is studying the exim bank project with the Finance Ministry. It is not sure, as yet, about the look of the bank, but Supachai proposed at the time that it would be a joint venture between the public and private sectors. "Anyway, I am certain that the exim bank will be launched during this administration," he points out.

Within a short period, Suphachai has established a reputation as a free trader. As chairman of the Committee on International Economic Policy, he handles Thailand's economic relations with neighbouring countries and the particularly sensitive business with the United States and the European Community.

He does not think that the Thai-US or Thai-EC trade relations should be solved on a bilateral basis, rather that the issues should be brought up at an international trade forum. As members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, all parties will need to adhere to Gatt agreements if the current round of trade talks are successfully concluded. He has repeatedly said that Thailand will honour agreements reached by Gatt, which should be the economic and trade policy frameworks for all nations.

He believes that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, now moving into their seventh year, will be concluded early next year, once Bill Clinton moves into the White House. Clinton would not want the US to be perceived as a country that blocks Gatt agreements.

If Gatt does not make progress by that time, it will be a setback for the further round. But Suphachai is optimistic that the US and the EC will be able to bridge their differences on agricultural and farm export subsidies—the most contentious issue which has delayed Gatt so far. However, once the Gatt talks are completed, Thailand, will need to undergo a drastic adjustment in its economic policy, particularly its tariff structure.

He believes that under the trade liberalization regime, Thailand will need to cut tariffs by an average 20 per cent over a period of six years. "And there will not be any exclusion list," he says.

With the single European market about to be formed in January 1, 1993, Suphachai believes that the Thai exports may be facing a rocky road ahead in increasing volume because of the tough regulations in what is an important market. The North American Free Trade Agreement will also give a tough time to Thai exports.

Instead, he says, Thai exporters should concentrate on building up markets in eastern Europe, where demand for consumer goods and food will rise significantly in the coming years. The eastern European economy should also improve because the industrialized nations will help cushion its passage into the wider international economic community.

Suphachai says, "Thai investors should look at investment opportunities in eastern Europe as a way to do business."

His finest moment appears to be his success in showing the other Asean members Thailand's leadership and commitment to creating the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta). He tried to introduce an exclusion list—a list of products temporarily exempted from tariff cuts—that reflected Thailand's liberal trade stance. His exclusion list carried only 83 items, mostly car accessories.

A source close to Suphachai explains that the deputy prme minister intended to make the number of Thai exclusions on the list lower than that of any other Asean country, in an effort to bring Thailand back into pole position of Asean, but Finance Ministry's officials did not share his idea. They rejected his proposed exclusion list and insisted that the final Thai exclusion list carried 118 items.

Suphachai said, "I thought that Thailand-based electronics and copper cathode businesses were strong enough to compete against imports so I proposed to include some items from the two sectors in the Afta list, hoping it would attract more foreign investors to invest in our electronics sector.

"But the Federation of Thai Industries members were not happy with that decision. Therefore, the government decided to bring some electronic items back to the exclusion list." he added.

Military Official Rules Out Coup Possibility

BK2512063292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] Army chief Wimon Wongwanit yesterday ruled out the possibility of a coup and said the army under his leadership would concentrate on national defence and contributing to the well-being of the people.

Gen Wimon, speaking at a ceremony marking the 58th anniversary of the anti-aircraft division in Bangsue, said he agreed fully with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's statement that the military would faithfully serve the people and would not seize power from a civilian government.

"In my opinion, when we have such good politicians as we have now, there is no justification whatsoever for soldiers to [stage a coup]. No. Definitely not," Wimon said, when asked whether the military would stage another coup.

"On behalf of all soldiers, I promise that we will strive to be the best army the country has ever had and to contribute to the well-being of the people."

On Thursday, Chuan said he was not worried about the possibility of a coup because his government would not create the political conditions that could be used to justify one. The Prime minister also said he believed the current military leaders were "happy" with democracy.

Meanwhile, Supreme Comander Woranart Apichari, in his New Year's speech to all three armed forces, yesterday urged military officials to exercise self-restraint and adhere to discipline.

Japan 'Interested' in Indochina Development Fund

BK2512095092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan on Wednesday returned from Japan after representing the Thai Government in the talks with Japan on the plan to set up an Indochina Development Fund. The plan, he said, is a joint effort by Indochinese states, ASEAN, and countries in the Pacific Region, as well as the European Community. The plan is aimed at developing the quality of life of people in the Indochinese region and helping ease the existing dispute, especially in Cambodia.

The deputy foreign minister said Japan is truly interested in the plan and the matter will be discussed again when Japanese Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa visits Thailand during 15 to 17 January 1993.

Japan Extends Loan for Infrastructure Projects

BK2612032692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Dec 92 p 13

[Text] Japan yesterday extended an 18,600-million-baht (93,000-million-yen) loan to Thailand to finance the country's basic infrastructure, improvement of water supply and environmental projects. The loan extension contract was signed by Finance Minister Tarrin Nimmanhaemin and Japanese Ambassador Hiroaki Fujii at the Finance Ministry.

The loan is part of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan scheme to Thailand and was the 17th loan extended. As was pledged on October 26 this year, the amount of the 17th loan package was 9.8 percent higher than the 16th package.

Japanese ODA loans have been extended to Thailand since 1968. The 17th ODA package brings the accumulated total amount of soft loans to about 202,200 million baht (1,011 billion yen) at the current exchange rate.

The 17th loan package will finance 12 projects and will serve, among other things, further development of Thailand's basic infrastructure (including projects related to electricity and transportation), improvements to the quality of life (water supply projects) and environmental protection. Some of the projects will be implemented in rural areas.

Conditions attached to the package include a 25-year repayment period, with a grace period of seven years, and a 3 percent per annum interest rate. The loan is completely untied, so goods and services to supply the projects may be procured from any country, including Thailand.

Projects to be financed by this loan include the Sirikit Hydroelectric Project Unit 4 (4,404 million yen), the Power Distribution System Reinforcement Project Fifth Stage Phase I (12,763 million yen), the Krungthep Bridge Construction Project (7,546 million yen), the Ramindra-At Narong Expressway Construction Project Phase II (21,850 million yen), the Track Rehabilitation Project (10,331 million yen), the Highway Sector Project Phase II (12,184 million yen), the Fourth Bangkok Water Supply Improvement Project Phase II (8,836 million yen), the Fifth Bangkok Water Supply Improvement Project (8,133 million yen), the Three Provincial Cities Water Supply Expansion Project (4,754 million yen), the Nong Pla Lai-Nong Kho Water Pipeline Project (6,362 million yen) the Environmentai Protection Promotion Programme (3,000 million yen) and the BAAC Loan (XII) (2,837 million yen).

Deputy Premier Receives PRC Delegation 25 Dec

BK2612090992 Bangkok ZHONG HUA RIBAO in Chinese 26 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Thai Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan received a six-member delegation from Jiangsu Province of China led by Shen Daren, secretary of the Jiangsu provincial Chinese Communist Party Committee, at 1100 on 25 December. Also present at the meeting were Li Shichun, Chinese ambassador to Thailand; and Zhang Jieling, committee member of the Thai-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and honorable president of the Jiang Zhe Association. At the meeting Shen Daren briefed the deputy prime minister on economic development in Jiangsu Province. Amnuai congratulated the delegation on the economic achievements of the province. He said that all regions in the world are strengthening economic cooperation. Asian countries should strengthen their contacts and cooperation for joint economic development. When Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai mentioned his plan to visit China in the spring of next year, Shen Daren, on behalf of the Jiangsu provincial administration, welcomed him to visit Jiangsu Province. Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai thanked him for the invitation.

Slight Economic Growth Predicted for 1993

BK2512051492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Dec 92 p 17

[By Peter Mytri Ungphakon and Ampawan Buranaponchai]

[Text] Thailand is heading for stronger economic growth, but the Government needs to tackle a mounting foreign debt problem, possible labour unrest and inappropriate stock exchange policies, the independent Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) said yesterday.

The warning came on a day when two of the country's most influential economic research units issued their assessments of Thailand's economic performance this year and their forecasts for the near future.

All of the country's major forecasters have now released their assessments, and they concur that growth will strengthen slightly next year, and that inflation will remain within the manageable range of 4-5 percent.

The predicted growth rates for next year range from 7.4 percent issued last month by the Siam Commercial Bank—to 8.1 percent—released by TDRI yesterday.

In between are the Bank of Thailand which yesterday announced a prediction of 7.8 percent, and the National Economic and Social Development Board whose figure, released earlier this week, was 8 percent.

The international backdrop for these forecasts is a weak world economy, some hope of recovery in the United States, but an unusual downward adjustment this week in the forecasts of the International Monetary Fund. Slack demand for trade could weaken Thai exports, still a major engine of economic growth.

All of the forecasting units note that investment growth slowed down considerably this year. So did imports, which grew by only about 8.4-8.9 percent, first because importers ran down their stocks before the introduction of value added tax on January 1, and second because of the investment slow-down.

Whereas the Bank of Thailand estimates this year's growth rate at 7.5 percent, TDRI's figure is only 6.9 percent.

The major difference between the various forecasts lies in future investment and the balance of trade. At one extreme, the Siam Commercial Bank is predicting continued slump in investment and imports, leading to a surplus in 1994. The rest are predicting a recovery in investment and continued deficits over the next few years.

The most pessimistic is Dr Chalongphob Sussangkan, TDRI's chief macroeconomist, who warned yesterday that the deficit in the current account—the balance of imports and exports of goods and services—is heading towards danger levels.

He calculates that by the end of the current Seventh National Plan, and the end of the Government's present term if it lasts that long, the current account deficit could approach the risky level of 9 percent of gross domestic product—the total value of goods and services produced in the country.

Dr Chalongphob agrees with many other economists that Thailand has room to manoeuvre on this problem mainly because of ample foreign exchange reserves that can be used to cover the deficit.

But he points out that the reason for the present health of the reserves is a net inflow of capital, attracted by higher interest rates in Thailand and the recent attractiveness of the stock market.

This inflow is largely short-term lending with maturity of less than one year, and therefore it could turn into an outflow, depleting reserves, at short notice. Without any correction, Thailand could end up with a Latin American-sized debt problem, he warns.

"For Thailand, the problem in the stock market is certainly not conducive to attracting short term inflows. Further, as the Thai financial system becomes more open according to the current policy direction, Thai interest rates will inevitably move closer to foreign rates. ... Thus the attraction for short term inflows into Thailand is likely to he reduced," he says.

Dr Chalongphob warns that "over-confidence concerning the problem of the current account deficit should certainly be avoided. Being short term inflows, they can as easily move out as move in, if conditions warrant

According to TDRI's figures, this year's current account deficit of 162 billion baht or 6.3 percet of GDP, will creep up to 383.4 billion baht or 8.7 percent of GDP in 1996.

Asked to comment on the wide difference between his import forecasts and those of the Siam Commercial Bank, Dr Chalongphob merely said he had confidence in TDRI's calculations.

However, Bank of Thailand economists are less concerned about the current account deficit. They are forecasting slower import growth and a current account deficit of less than 5 percent of GDP in 1996.

They attribute the differences in forecasts to a greater variability in the response of imports to economic conditions. With economic growth at the present rate of about 7-7.5 percent imports would normally grow by about 15 percent, whereas this year they have only grown by about 8.9 percent, making predictions about imports less reliable the central bankers say.

Dr Chalongphob also wants to see a change in emphasis when the government and labour representatives negotiate the minimum wage in order to improve workers' prospects for promotion and reduce frustrations and the risk of labour strife.

"The system should be improved so that the focus does not remain primarily on the figure of the 'minimum wage'. The process should rather stress the cooperative nature of the employer-employee relationship, and the development of career paths so that employees can be expected to see improvement in pay and other benefits over the course of their work career.

"Too narrow a focus on the minimum wage will inevitably highlight the conflicting interests between employer and employees, and may lead to a great deal of problems in the future, particularly under the more democratic system in Thailand today he says.

In his forecasts, Dr Chalongphoh assumes that wage bargaining is smooth, that stock market problems are solved and confidence returns, and that political stability remains. "The Government may fall or change, but as long as the current political system is not [overturned] there should be no serious impact on the economy."

GDP growth is predicted to remain at about 8 percent for the next four years, with exports growing at about 14-15 percent and imports at 15-17 percent, according to the TDRI figures.

Unlike in previous years, Dr Chalongphoh has not offered alternative scenarios for his forecasts. TDRI president Ammar Siamwalla attributed this to greater confidence in political stability.

The Bank of Thailand did not announce predictions beyond next year. It notes a strengthening of economic activity in October and November, predicts a recovery in private investment next year, and is less worried about an outflow of short-term capital.

It says it will conduct monetary policy in a manner that will support continued growth, but avoiding overheating. Bank credit should not expand by more than 20 percent and all financial institutions should be extra careful to make sure their lending is not risky, it says.

"In short, 1993 will be a year of many sided adjustments. Internal and external trends appear to be improving and the economy has begun to benefit from the many reforms that the Government has introduced" central bank governor Wichit Supinit said in a statement.

"In addition, the Government is genuine in its intention to develop and disperse progress to the provinces. These factors will help the Thai economy grow with stability and reduce the impediments of inequality."

Vietnam

Senator Kerry's Remarks to Media in U.S. Cited

BK2512100592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] According to a French news agency, on 19 December, U.S. Senator John Kerry, chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA's said that his recent visit was a great step forward in the collection of information about Americans missing in action during the Vietnam War. He stated that the Vietnamese Government gave him all the documents that the U.S. delegation had asked for during its previous visit to Vietnam.

Speaking to news reporters on his stopover at San Francisco Airport on his way back from Vietnam, Mr. Kerry said: "We now have more information than before, with many documents, photographs, and files on shot-down planes.

About U.S. pilots shot down in Laos, Vietnam said that it has been trying to collect documents for handing over to the U.S. Government. The U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA's has received documents about U.S. planes shot down along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Lao territory, including documents with names and photographs of U.S. pilots.

He also said that Senator Bob Smith, vice chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA's and he were promised by the Vietnamese side to see documents on POW's. The Vietnamese officials confirmed that all U.S. prisoners were returned in 1973.

As regard the normalization of U.S.-Vietnam relations, Mr. Kerry said that the United States understands Vietnam's goodwill. Therefore, we also need to act in a good-willed manner and gradually move to the last target, which is improved relations between the two countries.

U.S. Companies Interested in Ho Chi Minh City

BK2612144192 Hanoi VNA in English 1317 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 26—By mid-December this year, 116 US companies operating in various fields had come to Ho Chi Minh City and visited several economic establishments in the city. A number of them expressed their wish to open their representative offices in the city as soon as the US Government gives the green light. Economists predict that the first US companies to open their representative offices in Vietnam would be Citibank, Bank of America, Northwest Airlines, Coca Cola, AT&T, MCI Sprint and auditing, economic consultancy and construction firms. In addition, those companies which are being represented in Vietnam by companies of other nationalities would soon open official representative offices in vietnam.

Reportage on Thai Foreign Minister's Visit

Joint Communique Issued

BK2412143292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 24 Dec 92

["Text" of 24 December Vietnam-Thailand Joint Communique on Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri's 23-25 December official visit to Vietnam]

[Text] At the conclusion of the official visit to Vietnam of the foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, the two sides have issued a joint communique, which reads in full as follows:

1. At the invitation of SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, Mr. Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, paid an official visit to Vietnam from 23-25 December 1992.

2. While in Vietnam, His Excellency Prasong Sunsiri and his entourage paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited his residence and office. They were received by and held cordial talks with President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

In Ho Chi Minh city, the delegation paid a courtesy call on the city people's committee and toured a number of economic and cultural establishments in the city.

3. His Excellency Nguyen Manh Cam held official talks with His Excellency Prasong Sunsiri. Attending the talks on the Thai side were His Excellency Pracha Khunnakasem, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry; His Excellency Suraphong Chaiyanam, Thai ambassador to the SRV; General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary-general of the National Security Council; General Watthanachai Wutthisiri, deputy supreme commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces; General Amphon Chulabut, military-political coordinator of the Foreign Ministry; Mr. Akon Huntrakun, adviser to the foreign minister; Mr. Sathit Kraisit, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department; and Mr. Thakhun Thanit, deputy head of the Foreign Ministry's East Asia Department.

Attending the talks on the Vietnamese side were His Excellency Le Minh Huong, deputy minister of interior; Mr. Le Cong Phung, head of the Foreign Ministry's Southeast Asia-South Pacific Department; Mr. Nguyen Dinh Bin, head of the Foreign Ministry Consular Department; Mrs. Ton Nu Thi Ninh, acting head of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Department; and a number of high-ranking officials of the prime minister's office, of the ministries of foreign affairs and trade, and of the State Commissison for Cooperation and Investment.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, understanding, and cooperation.

4. The Vietnamese side hails the visit to Vietnam of His Excellency Prasong Sunsiri for contributing to progress made in Thai-Vietnamese relations and for further strengthening cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides reasserted the views that not only will the good and closer neighborly relations meet the aspirations and interests of the two peoples, but they will also benefit the cause of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Southeast Asian region.

5. The two sides informed each other of the situation in each country and exchanged views on methods and measures to strengthen bilateral relations as well as regional and international matters of mutual concern.

6. The two sides noted with joy the positive developments in the regional situation, ushering in a new era in the friendly and cooperative relations among various Southeast Asian countries. They asserted their determination to contribute to building the Southeast Asian region into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, cooperation, and development.

The two sides call on countries within and outside the region to support their efforts to attain this goal.

The Thai side expressed its desire to invite Vietnam to participate more in promoting regional cooperation and welcomed Vietnam's accession to the Southeast Asia Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and becoming an observer of ASEAN.

7. The two sides expressed their concern over violations of the Paris Accords on Cambodia and called on all countries and parties concerned to take necessary measures to ensure the complete and effective implementation of the accords in order to achieve national concord and reconciliation in the advance toward building an independent, peaceful, and neutral Cambodia having friendly relations with all neighboring countries and other countries.

8. The two sides unanimously agreed that given the fast- and profoundly changing world situation, all countries should exert a collective effort to establish wholesome international relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality among nations, mutually beneficial cooperation for economic development and prosperity, and for peace, stability, and friendship in the world.

9. The two sides welcome and feel encouraged by constant progress in bilateral relations and cooperation as evidenced by increasing contacts at various levels, both in the state and private sectors, and by rapid increase in the volume of trade and economic cooperation.

The two sides held that it is necessary to exert effort to further improve the atmosphere of mutual trust. This will certainly create the momentum for further development of friendly and cooperative relations between Thailand and Vietnam.

To achieve this aim, the two sides favored an increase in regular contacts and close relations between the leaders of the two countries. The intensifcation of cultural exchange and contacts between the two peoples should also be encouraged as a measure to increase mututual understanding and goodwill between the two countries.

10. To further consolidate cooperation, the two sides agreed to continue their talks on the delimitation of the continental shelf in the overlapping areas concerning the two countries in the Gulf of Thailand, on the securing of the law and order at sea, on fishery, and on consular matters.

The two sides also agreed to release a number of Vietnamese and Thai fishermen now detained by the two countries.

11. The two sides welcomed the results of the 16-18 December consultative conference of the four Mekong River countries of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam at Kuala Lumpur, regarding this as a step toward opening up new prospects for the increased cooperation among countries along the Mekong River.

12. The two sides shared the view that between the two countries, there remains great potential for cooperation and expressed their determination to do their utmost to further strengthen their multifaceted relations, particularly in the fields of trade, investment, and tourism.

To broaden economic cooperation between the two countries, the two sides signed an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation and an agreement on long-term credit loans.

The Vietnamese side highly valued the economic and technological assistance programs of Thailand and its humanitarian aid for victims of recent flash floods in central Vietnam.

13. The two sides agreed to hold the second meeting of the Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation in Vietnam in 1993.

14. The two sides welcomed the fine results of the visit to Vietnam of His Excellency Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

His Excellency Prasong Sunsiri expressed his deep gratitude for the warm welcome and the hospitality accorded to him and his entourage by Vietnamese leaders and people.

His Excellency Prasong Sunsiri invited His Excellency Nguyen Manh Cam to pay an official visit to Thailand. His Excellency Nguyen Manh Cam thanked him for this and joyfully accepted his invitation. The timing for this visit will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Thailand Urged 'To Force' KR Cooperation

BK2412150692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Hanoi, Dec 24 (AFP)—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam urged Thailand here Thursday to force the Khmer Rouge [KR] to cooperate with the United Nations-sponsored peace effort in Cambodia.

"If Thailand takes resolute measures, the Khmer Rouge will have to reconsider their position and implement the Paris agreement," Cam told a joint press conference with Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri.

Prasong said Thailand had clearly demonstrated its support for the peace accords signed last year in Paris, citing a recent decision to close the Thai-Cambodian border to Khmer Rouge fuel imports and log exports.

"Our country can provide a channel through which the Khmer Rouge can be contacted to negotiate hostage releases," Prasong added, highlighting Thailand's close links with the genocidal guerrilla faction.

Thailand played middleman in negotiating the release of several United Nations Transitional Authority (UNTAC) peacekeepers abducted by the Khmer Rouge this month, he said.

Cam welcomed the Thai sanctions, adding that he hoped they "will be aimed at forcing the Khmer Rouge to implement the peace agreement together with the other parties concerned." [passage omitted]

Prasong, the former hard-line anti-Vietnamese head of Thailand's National Security Council, said "disarming the Cambodian parties—especially the Khmer Rouge—is the responsibility of UNTAC and not any country."

The press conference marked the end of the official half of Prasong's three-day visit to Vietnam, which focused largely on promoting economic ties. He left Thursday for Ho Chi Minh City. [passage omitted]

Le Duc Anh Receives Prasong

BK2512075892 Hanoi VNA in English 0556 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 24—President Le Duc Anh received here today Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and his party on an official visit to Vietnam.

During the reception, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri noted that the cooperative relations between the two countries have entered into a new stage of development and expressed his belief that the Vietnamese people would gain new achievements in the present renovation process.

Speaking to his guests, President Le Duc Anh welcomed the Thai foreign minister's visit to Vietnam and wished that the friendship and cooperation betweeen the two countries would be further developed in all domains and at different levels. He expressed his belief that the Thai crown prince's recent visit and princess's coming visit to Vietnam would contribute to strengthening the mutual trust between the two peoples, opening a more practical cooperation.

President Le Duc Anh asked Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri to convey his best wishes to the king, the prince and the whole royal family on the occasion of the New Year.

Present at the reception was Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

Reportage on National Assembly's Second Session

Foreign Investment Law Amended

BK2512095292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] The National Assembly has written into law the rights of private businesses to form investment partnerships with foreign organizations and individuals. The new point is contained in the bill on amendments to the Foreign Investment Law.

Under the revised law, Vietnamese partners and joint ventures can negotiate for a gradual increase in their contribution to the prescribed capital. The new law says, among other things, that enterprises entirely invested with foreign capital which meet criterion set by the Vietnamese Government will be entitled to preferential treatment, hitherto applicable to joint ventures only.

Other amendments include provisions on (?ways) for a joint venture to open bank account on specific mechanism for investment in infrastructure, and rules for export processing zones.

VNA Lists 'Main Points'

BK2812065092 Hanoi VNA in English 0606 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 28—To encourage foreign organisations and individulas to invest in Vietnam and Vietnamese businessmen in different economic sectors to expand investment cooperation with other countries, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Dec. 23 approved a bill on amendments to the current foreign investment law. Following are the main points in the amendments:

1/ Vietnamese enterprises and individuals are allowed to participate in all forms of cooperation and investment with foreign organnisations and individuals in accordance with provisions of the investment law.

2/ The government will determine the duration of activity of enterprises with foreign investment on the merit of each project, which duration will not exceed 50 years. However, when necessary, according to regulations of the Standinng Committee of the National Assembly, the government will allow a longer duration, hut for no more than 70 years.

3/ With regard to important economic bases decided by the government, the parties are allowed to agree on a gradual increase of capital contribution by the Vietnamese party to the legal capital of joint venture. Vietnamese enterprises, on agreement with owners of enterprises with 100 percent foreign capital, can buy part of those enterprises and turn them into joint ventures.

4/ Enterprises with foreign investment are allowed to open accounts for Vietnamese or foreign currencies in Vietnamese bank, joint-venture banks, or branches of foreign banke in Vietnam. In special cases, with the agreement of the State Bank of Vietnam, an enterprise with foreign investment may open overseas bank accounts.

5/ The amended law allows the special form of investment known as "Building-Operation-Transfer" (BOT) in infrastructure construction. In this way, foreign investors will put capital in the construction of projects, operate them for a determined period of time to recover their capital and make profits. Then they will transfer those projects free to the Vietnamese Government.

6/ Appropriate measures will be taken to protect the interests of investors in case of changes in regulations that may affect them.

7/ Enterprises with 100% foreign capital that meet criteria laid down by the Vietnamese Government are entitled to privileges applicable to joint ventures under Article 27 of the current law.

8/ Norms for export processing zones promulgated by the government along with the Decision No. 322-hdbt dated 18/10/1991 are now incorporated in the new investment law (definitions of export processing zones, export-oriented production enterprises, forms of investment in export processing zones, rights and obligations of investors and enterprises in export processing zones, etc).

9/ A number of changes of a legislative technical character.

Resolution Issued; Part I

BK2612133392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Part I of the resolution on the socioeconomic program for 1993, from the Ninth Assembly second session; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Pursuant to Article 84 of the SRV Constitution and after considering reports of the government, Supreme People's Court, and Supreme Organ of Control; investigative reports and speeches presented by the Nationalities Committee and other committees of the National Assembly; and opinions expressed by the National Assembly deputies, the SRV National Assembly resolves:

I. Evaluating the 1992 situation.

The National Assembly agrees with the government report about evaluating the 1992 situation and unanimously confirms that in the background of many difficulties and challenges, this is the first time in many years that our country reached and overfulfilled many important targets of state planning. The economy is, step by step, moving out of the crisis, thus creating a foundation for higher development rates in subsequent years.

The prominent characteristics of 1992 are political stabilization, production increases, and a reduced inflation rate. Consumer prices did not change greatly. National reservation increased. The external relations economy—from import-export to economic cooperation to attract foreign investment—was broadened and achieved fine initial results.

The fields of culture, education, health care, and sports made some progress. Work in the areas of information, newspapers, publications, movies, and arts was adjusted initially. Scientific and technological research helped improve productivity, quality, and efficiency of production.

Besides government efforts to solve unemployment and provide a subsidy for wage earners, many charitable activities under the movements of 'reduce poverty and eliminate starvation,' 'repay meritorious deeds,' and 'provide care to families of fallen combatants, injured soldiers, and disabled people' developed in the public to help the needy. The people's lives, although still difficult, are stabilizing gradually.

The economy and culture of mountainous areas took some developing steps. Special areas for planting industrial trees were formed and achieved some results.

National defense and security were strengthened. Territorial sovereignty was protected. Political security was maintained, and the quality of the Armed Forces was upgraded one step.

The foreign relations activities were performed in a positive and active manner, contributing to the creation of an environment of peace, stability, and favorable international conditions for undertaking national construction and protection and for enhancement of our country's world role and position. This also contributes to the cause of peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress in the world.

Those results were obtained, first, by the party's renovation lines which were manifested in the government's guidelines, policies, and laws and were practically proved correct and suitable to people's wishes and current trends. In the party's renovation lines, we attached political renovation with economic renovation by passing the 1992 Constitution and Law on the Organization of the Government and by the election of the Ninth National Assembly.

Those results were also from investment in and construction of material and technological bases over the past years, and from the application of new scientific and technical advances in production.

The National Assembly heartily hails people in the country and soldiers of the Armed Forces for their patriotism, self-reliance, and determination to overcome difficulties to satisfactorily accomplish their 1992 duties. It welcomes the progress made in guidance and management of the government sectors and levels with the close coordination of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and mass organizations. And it welcomes the positive contributions of patriotic overseas Vietnamese to the homeland.

However, besides our achievements, our country still has many difficulties and problems. The economy is weak with low labor productivity and economic efficiency, poor commodity competition and infrastructure, underdeveloped national markets, unstable external markets, overspending the national budget with small revenue resources and great loss of revenue collection, and lavish expenditures in public funding. At times, the national cash balance is not favorable. Strongly encouraging policies have not been applied to mobilize people's great sources for developing investment, and favorable conditions have not been created for expanding business and production by all economic sectors.

Many cultural, educational, and health care establishments continue to degrade. Population and family planning work has made very little progress. The economic and cultural development in mountainous and ethnic areas is still weak in many aspects and those people's lives are still very difficult. The situation of deforestation and normadic farming and living has not decreased.

Our legal system and policies have not been adequate and harmonious; the enforcement of law, not strict and harmonious; and the maintenance of social order and discipline still lax. Corruption, smuggling, and other social vices have developed in an alarming fashion.

II. The Tasks for 1993

1993 will be a decisive year for the five-year (1991-95) state plan under which the following essential targets are to be achieved:

—Effecting a drastic change for the better in investment and in practicing thrift for economic development, and continuing to dispel crises in order to create conditions for development in the ensuing years.

—Ensuring political stability and stepping up building a state which is from the people, by the people, and for the people, and creating more vigorous changes for the better in social order and discipline. Remarkable progress should be achieved in the fight against corruption, smuggling, and other social vices.

—Rectifying and further bringing into play various cultural and social activities.

—Firmly maintaining independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, and broadening foreign relations.

To achieve these four targets, the National Assembly favored those specific tasks and the many approaches set forth by the government. It emphatically added:

1. Economically, it is necessary to increase the pace of development covering agriculture, industry, import-export, tourism, and support services; to ensure the plan for budgetary revenue and expenditures; to vehemently mobilize all sources of locally available capital and to attract more foreign capital investement; to control and dispel inflation; to stabilize the value of our currency; and to find more markets and to expand them for the sale of products.

Gross national product is to increase from 7-7.5 percent over 1992, total industrial output value from 8.5-9 percent over 1992, and total agricultural output value from 3.5-4 percent over 1992 with grain output reaching 24.5 million metric tons. Export value is to increase by 20 percent, the annual inflation rate is to be kept below 15 percent, and the population growth rate is to be reduced by 0.05 percent over 1992.

To achieve the above tasks and targets, attention should be paid to the following measures:

—In order to ensure steady agricultural development, it is necessary to promptly allocate land to peasants for long-term and steady management, and positively solve all land disputes. The state is to invest in building the infrastructure, to draw up policies to broaden credit lines and promote agricultrual production, to apply new technological advances, to develop the processing industry and the market for agricultural products, and to continue to restructure the managerial system of various agricultural cooperatives.

—To rearrange state enterprises, to dissolve those enterprises operating at a loss, to step up efforts to experiment with the application of the share-holding system to alter the form of ownership of various enterprises without needing to maintain the state-operated system.

—To basically complete debt settlement in the second stage; to consider promulgating various policies to mobilize nongovernmental economic elements; to reexamine, supplement, and revise the policy on capital construction to avoid the loss of capital in various areas such as making preparations for investment and designing and building state construction projects.

—To seek more sources of foreign loans, using various forms such as joint ventures or ventures with one hundred percent foreign capital, to build key projects and the infrastructure, especially those important projects already cited in the government report.

—To pay attention to building the capital and various cities, centers, and complexes.

—Expanding the export-import market and fighting smuggling must be linked with efforts to improve the competitive power of homemade commodities.

—To map out policies to strongly attract local capital investment and to create a favorable environment to attract foreign capital investment.

—To continue to restructure the tax and monetary policies, to keep inflation under control, to further restructure the allocation of special quota for revenue and expenditures to various sectors and localities, to stabilize the exchange rate, to proceed with shaping up the capital market, and to expand credit operations.

Assembly Resolution; Last Part

BK2612150992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Dec 92

["Last part" of the resolution adopted on the socioeconomic program for 1993, from the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] 2. Social Problems:

We should develop policies and measures to harmoniously carry out the population and family planning program in order to reduce the population growth rate, find jobs for the labor force, meet budget requirements for the rearrangement of personnel staffing and the number of redundant workers in the administrative and service sector as well as in the state-run economic sector.

We should gradually consolidate and improve the effectiveness of medical examination and treatment faciltiies, especially those situated in the mountainous and hinterland areas and in the former revolutionary base areas.

We should broaden various forms of training to improve the professional skills of workers, pay attention to workers employed in polluted environments, find measures to achieve labor cooperation with various countries, continue to do away with hunger and reduce poverty, compensate for the work of families credited with good service to the revolution, struggle against and dispel social vices now undermining our customs and traditions and struggle against the decline in social ethics. Especially, we should curb prostitution, drug addiction, and gambling.

3. Culture and Education:

We should uphold the examples of good people and good deeds, build a wholesome lifestyle, criticize and do away with decadent lifstyles and antiquated superstitious practices, reestablish law and order in the fields of publication, art performance, and press, strictly ban all circulation of decadent culturual works, urgently popularize elementary education and the illiteracy eradication program, develop various forms of education, improve academic and scholastic quality, prevent degradation of various shools and classrooms, foster new talent, pay attention to law indoctrination, and create conditions for youths and teenagers to learn a profession, find a job, and be involved.

We should achieve satisfactory cooperation between schools and society in educating youths and teenagers and in caring for children.

We should consolidate and build more boarding schools for ethnic students in the mountain region, rearrange the system of colleges and scientific research institutes in order to link academic and scholastic work with scientific research and application of scientific advances in production and life.

4. Restructuring the Wage System:

In 1993, we will apply a new wage system in accordance with a plan presented by the government before the National Assembly in order to further do away with various indiscriminate wage scales.

We should exercise the according-to-his-work pay system, ensure essential needs of salaried people, and adopt appropriate and cautious steps in such a way as not to create upheavals in prices and budget.

5. Science and Industry:

We should acquire and effectively apply new technologies, protect the ecological environment, rationally tap all natural resources, involve ourselves more deeply in developing a number of scientific sectors such as biological technologies, computer science, and electronic industry in order to develop the country's scientific potential, step up scientific research, pay attention to economic management science in the market economy, continue to study and introduce Ho Chi Minh thought into life.

6. The Economy and Culture of the Mountain Region and the Areas Inhabited by Ethnic Minority Compatriots:

We should build many projects to develop in-place resources and attract local and foreign capital investment, increase the budget for building the infrastructure, especially communications and water conservancy in order to serve economic and cultural development, create favorable conditions for the mountain region to switch to a commodity-based economy, concentrate means and conditions on preventing and fighting malaria, goiter, and other social diseases; further stabilize activities concerning settled farming and settled life, pay attention to solving those problems arising from building various public projects.

7. National Defense and Security:

We should highten vigilance against the peaceful evolution strategy, be alert to cope with all situations, foil all sabotage schemes and actions of hostile forces, revamp our all-people national defense and people's security-related strategy, link national defense and security with the economy and social welfare, firmly maintain national security and territorial integrity, increase efforts to ensure technical and other essential requirements for national defense and security, and guarantee the material and spiritual life of cadres and combatants.

8. Foreign Relations Work:

Based on thoroughly understanding the party's foreign relations lines, external relations activities need to be strongly implemented in the fields of politics, economy, science and technology, culture, education, and information.

The state diplomatic activities, together with personal diplomatic activities, should quickly grasp new opportunities to strengthen and to broaden relations with other countries and international organizations, first with Southeast Asian countries and countries in the Asian Pacific Region; and to contribute to the implementation of socioeconomic, security, and defense duties in subsequent years.

At the same time, peaceful negotiations should be conducted with related countries to satisfactorily solve remaining problems concerning the border and territory, especially newly arising problems in maritime boundaries, on the basis of protecting national sovereignty and integrity on land, sea, and in the air, thus contributing to the protection of peace in the region and in the world.

9. Fighting Corruption and Smuggling:

A very important duty is to prevent a painful social vice which is causing great damage to our regime and which is condemned by the public. Constructing order and discipline in economic activities and purifying and enhancing the efficiency of the state apparatus require a resolute, thorough, and uniform guidance policy and measures to gradually improve the situation and win back public trust.

The National Assembly entrusts the government to organize, guide, and execute resolute measures to fight, prevent, and eliminate corruption, smuggling, and other negative phenomena. Initially, the government is to reexamine, correct, and supplement documents on management structure of policies and laws and to overcome shortcomings in socioeconomic management.

The law enforcement agencies are to quickly investigate, charge, and correctly punish corruption and smuggling cases, especially serious cases that attract public attention. They are to discharge from their agencies incompetent, poor quality officials to ensure strength and cleanliness.

The National Assembly instructs the National Assembly Standing Committee, the Nationalities Council and other committees of the National Assembly, National Assembly deputies, people's councils' deputies at all levels, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, and social organizations—depending on their function, responsibility, and power—to outline their own programs to counter corruption and smuggling in their own areas at the same time with supervising other levels and sectors in implementing this duty.

10. Guidance and Management Work:

Upgrading the government's ability on guidance and management in the transitional period to the market mechanism is a very urgent duty. Initially, the improper intervention of state economic management organs to production and business activities should be stopped. Government guidance should be concentrated on important tasks and areas. Relations between economic duties and other duties should be satisfactorily solved in order to fundamentally reorganize the national administration system to guarantee a state management under the new structure. The principle of democratic centralism should be implemented. Administrative reform should be executed step by step. The legal building program and the construction of civil servant positions and regulations should be satisfactorily implemented. The administration apparatus needs to be clean and stay close to the people and grassroots level, quickly solve legitimate public demands, and eliminate procedures causing embarrassment, bureaucracy, and situations causing aloofness from the public. It should be against all manifestations of division, sectionalism, and localism, and it should perform better coordination between the government, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, mass organizations, and social organizations.

The National Assembly calls on the people, soldiers, and overseas Vietnamese to implement Ho Chi Minh City's saying "Unity, Unity, Great Unity; Success, Success, Great Success." All are for a rich and strong Vietnam fatherland. We will overcome difficulties and challenges to successfully implement the 1993 duties to create the foundation for national development in the following years.

Closing Session Viewed

BK2712101192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] The Second Session of the Ninth Vietnamese National Assembly closed in Hanoi on Wednesday [23 December]. During the 13 days of hard work, the National Assembly considered and evaluated the implementation of 1992 tasks. The deputies spent much time discussing and deciding on tasks for 1993 in economic, social, national defense, security, and diplomatic fields, especially measures against corruption and smuggling.

The National Assembly discussed and passed the bill on amendments to the Criminal Law, the Law on Criminal Procedures, and the Land Law.

Taking the responsibility before the voters throughout the country, National Assembly deputies discussed, contributed many opinions, and passed decisions on many national issues to help the government implement appropriate policies and effective measures to promote national development.

On behalf of the government, Premier Vo Van Kiet acknowledged all the opinions. He evaluated the situation in 1992 and presented the 1993 state plan. On the present socioeconomic situation, Premier Vo Van Kiet said: The achievements obtained in 1992 will create new prospects for the country's socioeconomic development.

There is new energy and new opportunities for development in the fields of production, improving distribution, and circulation; and strengthening finance, money, import and export. These opportunities made Vietnam very attractive to foreign investment and foreign trade.

The premier pointed out that this new economic juncture is not only the result of 1992's efforts, but also the result of integrated efforts over the past several years, including the policy to upgrade management and investment, the effort to build the technical-material foundation, and the implementation of the open-door diplomatic policy as one of the most positive activities.

Premier Vo Van Kiet stressed that it is necessary to have an appropriate outlook on this new juncture in order to design the orientations for development and to grasp opportunities to advance forward to activate the country's potentials and to attract foreign resources. The premier said that the government did not underestimate difficulties, including the weakpoints and errors which need to be ratified, especially in social matters.

In the 1993 socioeconomic plan, the premier pointed out that in addition to the measures to develop the economy, the government plans to pay great attention to the people's welfare, especially to urgent problems concerning mountain areas and ethnic minority people. In 1993, investment capital for mountain areas will be increased by 34 percent as compared to 1992, an amount which is higher than in other areas. Concerning rural development, the government has studied information on farm products and protection funds with the aim of boosting agricultural production and improving the life of peasants.

Vo Van Kiet Signs Decree on Cabinet Regulations

BK2712134692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 10 Dec 92

[Text] On 1 December the prime minister signed Decree No. 13-CP defining regulations on the operation of the cabinet. This decree overrules all regulations previously issued on operational procedures of the Council of Ministers.

The regulations clearly define all operation procedures, from general to concrete functions, such as establishing work schedules, preparing proposals for discussion at the cabinet, meeting sessions, staffing for the prime minister, promulgation of the cabinet's documents, reception of foreign guests, meetings, official trips, policies on communication and reporting to the prime minister, inspection, investigation and settlement of complaints and denunciations.

The Government Office also issued, on the same day, a circular on guiding the implementation of these regulations to various offices of the ministries and agencies concerned and people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government.

Australia

Defense Minister: Somalia Mission 'Good Cause'

BK2412071892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] The Australian defense minister has told troops leaving to join the American-led humanitarian operation in Somalia that their efforts will help to ensure the survival of thousands of people. Senator Robert Ray was speaking at Townsville in Northeastern Australia where 120 soldiers have left for Somalia aboard the navy ship Jarvis Bay.

Senator Ray told the troops and assembled relatives and friends that although it was sad they could not celebrate Christmas with their families the mission was for a good cause. The Jarvis Bay is also carrying supplies and equipments to be used by the remainder of the 900-member Australian contingent which will help to distribute relief supplies in Somalia.

Troops, Equipment en Route to Somalia

BK2612070692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Another Australian Navy ship is on its way to Somalia to help in the American-led operation to organize a food aid distribution for the country's thousands of starving people. The landing ship, the Tobruk, is on its way from Sydney to Queensland city of Townsville, where it will load armored personnel carriers and other equipment. The Australian supply ship, the Jarvis Bay, is also on its way to Somalia.

Australia is sending 900 troops to join the operation in Somalia—the largest deployment of Australian ground forces overseas for 20 years.

Fiji

Participation in UN Missions Under Review

BK2812063892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Fiji says it cannot make any further international peacekeeping commitments until 1994. The country's deputy secretary for home affairs, Tom (Chulama), said this was because of a current review into its participation in international peacekeeping missions. Mr. (Chulama) said the review would affect the United Nations' request for Fiji troops for peacekeeping duties in Mozambique. He said any request for Fiji's participation would have to wait until a review is completed. Mr. (Chulama) said Fiji's peacekeeping commitments had also been frozen because the country had already contributed its quota towards UN operations. Fiji has agreed with the UN to send overseas a total of two battalions, 20 military observers, and 100 policemen and women. The review team is to meet again early next month.

Papua New Guinea

Former Finance Minister Sought by Police

BK2412060292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0504 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Port Moresby, Dec 24 (AFP)—Paul Pora, finance minister in the deposed government of Rabbie Namaliu, appeared in court here Thursday on multiple charges of bribery and misappropriation of public funds.

Pora was charged Wednesday by Port Moresby police on four counts of bribery and four of misapprpriation. He entered no plea.

He had given himself up to be charged when police issued a public warning Tuesday to begin a manhunt if he didn't do so within 24 hours.

The deadline was issued after police sought Pora for almost a week to lay the charges.

Pora is still a serving politician but in the opposition benches.

The eight charges all relate to funds totalling 480,000 kina (429,250 U.S.) allegedly paid to three other former ministers in the Namaliu government in 1990, a police spokesman said.

Former prime minister Namaliu himself is facing 14 charges, eight for misappropriation and six for bribery, regarding the same monies paid to former ministers.

The funds were allegedly paid for the ministers' loyalty at a time Namaliu faced a vote of no-confidence.

He (Namaliu) appeared in court briefly on December 15, and the case was adjourned to January 21.

The same lawyer who represented Namaliu in court was in Pora's company when he was charged and released on his own recognisance.

Three of the former ministers who allegedly received monies from Namaliu and Pora have been found guilty of misconduct in office and dismissed from office by a leadership tribunal.

They are all facing multiple charges of soliciting bribes from the government.

The fourth former minister died when the case was still pending before the leadership tribunal.

The case was adjourned to a date next month to be determined.

Government Denies Clash With Solomon Police

BK2812082092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government has denied a reported border clash between Solomon Islands police and PNG security forces yesterday. Radio Australia's Sean Dorney says the story was first carried by Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation but PNG says no shots were exchanged. The radio report claimed members of the Solomon Islands border police were chasing a PNG patrol boat which had entered Solomon Islands waters yesterday when a shoot-out took place.

PNG said that is wrong but it says one soldier and two Bougainvillian resistance fighters did cross the border in a dinghy looking for alcohol to celebrate Christmas and were turned back without incident.

Solomon Islands

Shoot-Out Reported Between Police, PNG Soldiers

BK2812063292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] soldiers are reported to have exchanged fire with members of the Solomon Islands police field force patrolling the common border between the two countries. A report quoted by state-controlled Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation said the shoot-out, believed to be the first ever between the two security forces, took place yesterday. The report said members of the field force were chasing a PNG defense force boat which had entered Solomon Islands territorial waters when the shoot-out took place. The report claims that the PNG soldiers fired first at the Solomon Islands police and the fire was returned.

Commander of the Solomon Islands field force John (Hamelo) says he is yet to confirm reports of the shoot-out and will travel to the border area to inquire into the incident. The field force patrolling the border have been placed on full alert because of intelligence reports about a planned cross border raid by PNG soldiers during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

Vanuatu

Government Bans Ships From Transiting Waters

BK2412040292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0246 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Port Vila, Dec 24 (AFP)—Vanuatu, angered by the passage through its waters of the Japanese plutonium carrier Akatsuki Maru, has said it would not allow other ships to sail through its 200-mile offshore economic zone.

In a statement Wednesday, the office of Prime Minister Maxime Carlot said the small South Pacific nation—which has no navy—was "not ready and not big enough to handle a natural disaster" in its waters.

The office did not comment further on the scope of the shipping ban.

It added that Vanuatu's opposition to this week's passage of the Akatsuki Maru was already clear, and that it remained in accord with the South Pacific Forum's policy for a denuclearized Pacific.

The Akatsuki Maru, on a secretive journey from France with 1.7 tonnes of radioactive plutonium for use in Japan's fast-breeder nuclear program, was reported by Greenpeace to have passed through Vanuatu waters on Wednesday.

It had left the French port of Cherbourg on November 7 with a Japanese naval escort. A second escort was discovered by Greenpeace to have joined it last weekend.

It was not clear how Vanuatu—a group of 80 islands formerly known as the New Hebrides, and home to nearly 150,000 people with a per capita GNP of 820 dollars a year—would enforce its ban.

It has just one small patrol boat, which "Jane's Fighting Ships" says is unarmed. It also has a surveillance accord of its economic zone with Australia, New Zealand and France, whose Pacific territory of New Caledonia is southwest of Vanuatu.

Last week Vanuatu strongly protested the anticipated passage of the Akatsuki Maru through South Pacific waters, calling it a "demonstration of Japan's disprespect for South Pacific island countries."

The government's anger was shared by Vanuatu's main opposition party, the Vanuaaku Pati, which on Wednesday expressed its "grave concern and disappointment."

"In spite of general assurances given by the Japanese government that the vessel would not enter the 200 mile exclusive economic zone of South Pacific countries," party coordinator Peter Taurakoto said, this was "another example of disrespect of the unequivocally expressed concerns of Pacific states."